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THE GENERAL ELECTION: CANVASSING.—SEE PAGE 316.

her Majesty occupies the so-called Assembly Chamber, while apartments were prepared for Princess Beatrice in the Clock Tower.

The confirmation of Princesses Victoria and Elizabeth, the daughters of the Grand Duke of Hesse, took place on Wednesday morning at the Castle Chapel in presence of the members of the Grand Ducal family, Queen Victoria, Princess Beatrice, the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Crown Prince of Germany, the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Hesse, and the Hereditary Grand Duke of Baden. The Royal party occupied seats on both sides of the altar, those of the Queen, the Prince of Wales, and the Grand Duke being placed on the right. Accommodation was provided in the nave of the church and in the choir for the Court dignitaries, the principal functionaries of State, the Generals of the Army, and the other personages invited. The ceremony was opened by a hymn sung by the choir, after which Vicar Sell, the religious instructor of the Princesses, delivered an address to the candidates, who subsequently recited the Confession of Faith. This was followed by the benediction, and the ceremony of receiving the newly confirmed Princesses into the Church, at which Herr Benden, the Court Chaplain, was the officiating minister. The Princesses partook of the holy communion at the close of the ceremony.

The Royal Maundy Charity was distributed in Whitehall Chapel during Divine service on Maundy Thursday to sixty-one aged men and sixty-one aged women, the number of each sex corresponding with the age of her Majesty. Prince Leopold and Princess Frederica of Hanover were present. The Queen's other Easter bounties—viz., the Minor Bounty, Discretionary Bounty, and the Royal Gate Alms, had previously been distributed at the Royal Almshouse, in Scotland-yard, to upwards of 1300 persons.

The Queen has conferred the honour of Companion of the Civil Division of the Order of the Bath on Dr. Farr.

The Hon. David Robert Plunket, M.P., and Mr. George Cubitt, M.P., have been sworn members of the Privy Council.

The Queen will hold Drawingrooms at Buckingham Palace on the 11th and 13th of May next; and the Prince of Wales will, by command of the Queen, hold a Levee at St. James's Palace, on behalf of her Majesty, on May 7.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES.

The Prince and Princess of Wales, with Princesses Louise, Victoria, and Maud, attended Divine service on Good Friday, in the Chapel Royal, St. James's. The Sub-Dean, the Rev. J. V. Povall, and the Rev. A. H. Sitwell officiated. The Prince and Princess visited the Duke of Cambridge at Gloucester House. Prince Leopold and the Duke and Duchess de Mouchy visited their Royal Highnesses at Marlborough House, and remained to luncheon. The Prince and Princess left London, via Queenborough and Flushing, at eleven o'clock p.m., for Brussels and Darmstadt. Their Royal Highnesses arrived at Brussels at half-past three o'clock on Saturday afternoon; and were received at the railway station by the King of the Belgians and Mr. Savile Lumley, the English Minister, who accompanied them to the Royal Palace. After a two days' stay the Prince and Princess left for Darmstadt. The Crown Prince of Germany, accompanied by his daughter, the Hereditary Princess of Saxe-Meiningen, arrived at Darmstadt on Tuesday evening, and was received at the railway station by the Prince of Wales, the Grand Duke of Hesse, and the other Princes of the Grand Ducal family.

The Prince is announced to visit Holyhead on June 1, to open the new harbour works constructed at that port by the London and North-Western Railway Company.

Her Majesty's ship Bacchante, Captain Lord Charles Scott, having on board Prince Albert Victor and Prince George of Wales, is reported to leave to-day Bermuda for England.

The Duke of Edinburgh, in her Majesty's ship Lively, has been making a tour of inspection of the south and west of Ireland. His Royal Highness arrived at Galway on Monday, and was entertained at luncheon at the Galway Club-House.

Prince Leopold went to the Prince of Wales's Theatre on Monday evening. His Royal Highness will sail direct to Canada on the 29th inst. in the Allan steam-ship Sarmatian. From Canada he will proceed through the Western States of America, but he will not (as was recently contemplated) extend his tour to San Francisco. He will be attended by the Hon. Alexander Yorke and Mr. Royle.

The Duke of Cambridge dined with Sir Benjamin S. Phillips at his residence at Brighton after the Easter review.

Prince William of Prussia has been staying for some days past at Cumberland Lodge with Prince and Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein.

The Empress Eugénie, travelling as the Comtesse de Picrefonds, left Chisellhurst on Thursday week for Zululand, accompanied by Major-General Sir Evelyn and Lady Wood, the Duc de Bassano, the Hon. Mrs. Ronald Campbell, Lieutenant Slade, and Dr. Scott. Her Majesty travelled to Southampton, and embarked thence in the Union Company's steamer German. The German touched at Madeira on Tuesday, and by telegraph we learn that the Empress Eugénie and suite are in good health.

The marriage of Lord Hastings and the Hon. Elizabeth Harbord, third daughter of Lord and Lady Suffield, will take place in the third week of this month.

Lord Beaconsfield has been chosen President of the Manchester Conservative Club, in place of Lord Derby, resigned.

The council meeting of the Central Chamber of Agriculture intended to be held on April 6 has been postponed.

By the new Act of Distress in Ireland the persons who are relieved on account of the present condition are not to be deprived of their electoral or other franchise.

At Oxford, on Tuesday, the Vice-Chancellor (Dr. Evans) publicly presented Mr. John Robert Baxter, of Holywell, Oxford, with a handsome gold watch and a purse of fifty sovereigns, for having saved the life of Mr. Barton, an undergraduate, of Magdalen College, when the ice gave way, in Blenheim Park, in January last.

The annual meeting of the National Union of Elementary Teachers was opened at Brighton on Monday by the delivery of an address by the president. The conference extended over three days. Among the subjects discussed were the supply of teachers, graded schools and technical education, compulsory education, and the means of appeal on the part of teachers against decisions of the Education Department.

A meeting of ironworkers' representatives from South Staffordshire, East Worcestershire, North Staffordshire, Warrington, Shropshire, South Yorkshire, and Lancashire was held at Wednesbury on Monday to consider the formation of an association. Twenty thousand operatives were represented. Twenty lodges have been established already. It was resolved to form a society, entitled "The Associated Iron, Steel, and Tin Workers of the Midland Counties." The object is to afford mutual trade protection and social benefit.

ART-BOOKS.

We have received two fresh volumes in continuation of the series (several of which we have already reviewed) of "Illustrated Biographies of the Great Artists" (Sampson Low and Co.). These are *Leonardo da Vinci*, by Dr. Jean Paul Richter, and the *Figure-Painters of Holland*, by Lord Ronald Gower.

Dr. Richter's Life of Leonardo is an epitome, like others of the series, of much, if not all, that is known of the great master down to the present time, and takes note in a cursory way of some works recently attributed to him, though it passes in silence several which have long borne his name. But we were led to expect much more than this. It was represented that the author had found the key to neglected manuscripts of Leonardo preserved at Windsor, and had made important discoveries in them, which were to be published in this biography. Either, however, Dr. Richter's discoveries amount to very little, or he has reserved them for the "special essay" which he tells us in a note of the Appendix he contemplates producing. But all that he intimates is that the "proofs" he "may have," and which he "reserves," afford data only for arriving at the conclusion that the position of the horse upon which Leonardo ultimately decided for the great Sforza Monument (which horse is figured in various attitudes in his drawings at Windsor) was that of walking, not galloping. But such a conclusion is, of course, highly probable in the nature of things, and hardly required the confirmation of Leonardo's manuscripts. For, to support the vast weight when finally cast in bronze of an equestrian group about 26 feet high, with the horse in the position of galloping (not that of rearing up an inclined plane, like the Peter the Great at St. Petersburg, which was certainly not Leonardo's intention), would have required massive mechanical supports that would with great difficulty have been rendered sightly, and of which we believe there is no trace in the master's drawing nor mention in his manuscripts. Dr. Richter does not, however, make this obvious observation, but reserves his proofs in order simply to dispose of the claim made by M. Courajod, in *L'Art* and the *Gazette des Beaux-Arts* to have found the actual adopted designs for the finished model of this monument. It might indeed appear from passages in pages 36 and 37 of this book that Dr. Richter's mysterious proofs establish as a fact the actual casting of the monument in bronze. But this assumption is contrary to all known evidence—which invariably speaks of the work as not carried further than the model, and it is also contrary to the intimation conveyed in the reproach (made eleven years after the exhibition of the model of the monument in Milan) by Michael Angelo to Leonardo of the inability of the latter to cast a statue—as related by the anonymous biographer of Leonardo. It is, moreover, utterly improbable that a work of such magnitude, executed in imperishable bronze, should have been unrecorded, and every vestige of it lost to view. As for the quotations of the appendix from the antique Italian of the original manuscripts, to which Dr. Richter seems to attach so much importance, they are evidently merely jottings of a scheme for strengthening the mouldings with irons, and for arranging the pieces so as to receive the liquid metal; they prove nothing as to the actual execution of the bronze casting. The biographer says, somewhat naively, that "we cannot by any means assume with Vasari that the model was only completed in clay." Of course not. There can be no doubt that the model erected in the Piazza d'Armi at Milan, which was afterwards proposed to be removed to Ferrara, and the destruction of which the Gascon archers completed by making a target of it, was not the original clay model, but a plaster cast from it—which is a very different thing from a bronze casting, and might be injured by the arrows or bolts of archers. But Vasari's statement, this time at all events, may be regarded as virtually, though not technically, correct: the plaster cast counts for nothing: it is simply the clay model put, as it were, *en évidence*. Anything that might throw fresh light on the great Sforza Monument is, we need not say, of the highest interest, for had it been completed in bronze and preserved it would probably rank as high in sculpture as the Last Supper in painting. We are driven, however, to believe that the passages of this biography to which we have referred are simply ambiguous (like many others in the book), and do not mean what they seem to imply. There is little else of consequence sufficient to call for remark, except that the biographer's tone throughout is not a little dogmatic. He is apt to make both statements and denials without giving reasons for them, or he gives reasons that are sometimes far from conclusive. A work on the life and works of Leonardo worthy of the subject has yet to be written, and would tax the highest intelligence, the widest and deepest general learning, and the finest critical acumen.

The volume by the amiable and accomplished amateur, Lord Ronald Gower, treats only of the minor figure-painters of Holland, biographies of Rembrandt and Frans Hals having already appeared in this series. Included are Jan Steen, Peter de Hooch, the Ostades, Van der Helst, Brouwer, Terburg, Ferdinand Bol, Gerard Dow, Philip Wouvermans, Gabriel Metzu, Nicolas Maes, Mieris, Caspar Netscher, Honthorst, and the till lately almost unknown Van Meer of Delft. The scope of the author is strictly, though hardly judiciously, limited, geographically considered, so that David Teniers and other Flemish figure-painters are not included. All, or nearly all, that is known of the painters dealt with—and very little is known of nearly all of them—is carefully compiled, and lists of their principal works are given. Criticism of a very discriminative character is not attempted, and, indeed, it must be confessed that the opinions generally are of a somewhat old-fashioned description; still, they are appreciative, and in the main not far wrong. It was hardly advisable, we think, to attempt to substitute the correct Dutch names of painters and places for those Anglicised into common use and universally adopted in our art-literature. It was, it is true, desirable to explain what the true names of the painters were, because this knowledge might possibly assist in the identification of a signature; but nobody can be expected nowadays to write or speak of "Ter-Borch" for Terburg, or "Ver-Meer" for Van Meer, or Adriaen, Philips, Isack, Jansz, and Pieter, respectively, for Philip, Isaac, Jan, and Peter. Again we have to repeat that the illustrations are superior to those in the first volumes of this interesting series.

The Year's Art (Macmillan and Co.) resembles a recent work published in Paris, and, though needing revision in details, supplies in a more complete and satisfactory manner than might have been hoped from a first attempt the want which many have long felt of a book of reference in matters of art. Mr. Marcus B. Huish, the compiler of this most useful and handy volume, has not only provided, to use his own words, a "concise epitome wherein the student in art can ascertain where and how he can obtain instruction—to which the artist can turn for information as to where and how he may exhibit his work—and where the collector can find when such and such a picture was sold, or when such and such an engraving was published;" but he has furnished a large mass of useful

information besides. Statistical and other particulars are given of the State-aid to art from the reports of the national museums and the art division of the Science and Art Department; and of other museums, galleries, societies, exhibitions, clubs, schools, art-unions, charities, and bequests. Lists are given of the engravings, etchings, and books on art published during the past year, as also of the principal pictures, drawings, and *objets d'art* sold by auction, with the prices they fetched. In addition to other Parliamentary items, the paragraphs relating to the Fine Arts in the report of the Copyright Commission and the Memorial of the Royal Academy thereon are printed *in extenso*. We have, further, a list of dealers, an obituary of the past year, an almanack for the current year; a directory of artists—exhibitors in the principal exhibitions, and many miscellaneous jottings. The hardest part of Mr. Huish's task was probably that of condensing and summarising the voluminous report of the Department of Art. Whether equal or better results might not be obtained with a much less cumbersome "administration," and whether the salaries are regulated in all cases according to the relative importance of the services rendered to the country, might well, we think, be subjects of inquiry. The information respecting the Royal Academy is meagre in the extreme, but for this the compiler is not responsible. No statistics of any kind are published by this anomalous "semi-private body;" and only a Parliamentary Commission can elicit particulars as to its receipts, management, and the discharge of its great public trust. This book should be useful in various ways beyond Mr. Huish's modest aim; and it will be not the less so because the facts are left to speak for themselves. In one instance, indeed, where the compiler expresses an opinion of his own, we are far from agreeing with him—viz., where he states that the Report of the Copyright Commission "appears to hold the scales very evenly balanced between the artist and the purchaser." He remarks, further, that the Royal Academy, "as might be expected, looks at the question from the artist's rather than the purchaser's point of view." Equally fair is it to retort that Mr. Huish, as might be expected, looks at the question from the purchaser's rather than from the artist's point of view—he being the secretary of a print-publishing firm who are purchasers of artists' works.

Our kinsmen on the other side of the Atlantic have started a new *American Art-Review* (Estes and Lauriat, of Boston, New York, and Chicago), which speaks well for the progress of taste in the United States, and deserves to be successful. Two numbers are already published, and they unite the features of the English "Art-Journal" and "Portfolio." The illustrations, engraved on wood, could hardly be better. The etchings are more unequal; but two or three are fair examples of Unger and other distinguished foreign artists. American art is still mainly borrowed from the French and German schools, and has yet to learn to trust to its own inspirations. There seems to be a strange ignorance in America of our British school and the place assigned to it by the most recent and best-informed foreign critics. The letterpress of the second number of this review, now before us, includes a memoir of the lately deceased American artist William Morris Hunt, and able articles on "The Future of Art" (by the editor), on Designs for the Washington Monument, and on the Discoveries at Olympia, by Mr. C. C. Perkins, the well-known writer on Italian sculpture; together with criticisms on art-books and a "chronicle" of news.

A lecture delivered by Mr. S. Messenger Bradley, F.R.C.S., at the Royal Institution, Manchester, on *The Relationship of Anatomy to the Fine Arts*, has lately been published (J. Heywood, Manchester, and 18, Paternoster-square). It is well worth perusal by artists and all interested in the subject. The law of relative proportionate ratios discovered and enunciated by Professor Zeising, of Berlin, is the rule of proportion which Mr. Bradley favours, but it is difficult of application by artists. However, many of Mr. Bradley's remarks evince an appreciation of the nature of art not commonly found in professors of anatomy. Incidentally, he recommends the course of artistic anatomy in the Art Schools of Philadelphia for adoption in this country. This course, which was described in "Scribner's Monthly" for September, 1879, consists of thirty lectures, and includes much more than is taught in our Royal Academy. Not only are the skeleton and muscles minutely described and illustrated by dissections, but especial care is taken to demonstrate the muscles of the face, for which purpose electricity is employed to throw individual muscles into action; and two lectures are occupied with the skin and its appendages, including a careful study of the creases and wrinkles of the face and hands—a most important matter for figure and portrait painters.

We have received the first Part of a serial work of at least local interest, illustrative of the *Remnants of Old Wolverhampton and its Environs* (Messrs. Fullwood and Hellier, Wolverhampton). The work is to consist of twenty-five parts, each of which is to contain four etchings on copper. The principal subjects in the first part are the old collegiate Church, and Boscobel, the refuge of Charles I. after the Battle of Worcester. The existing church (which we happen to have visited very recently) is of little architectural interest, being in its visible features of late and debased style; there is some fairly good modern glass in the new chancel, but the wall paintings beneath are already decaying.

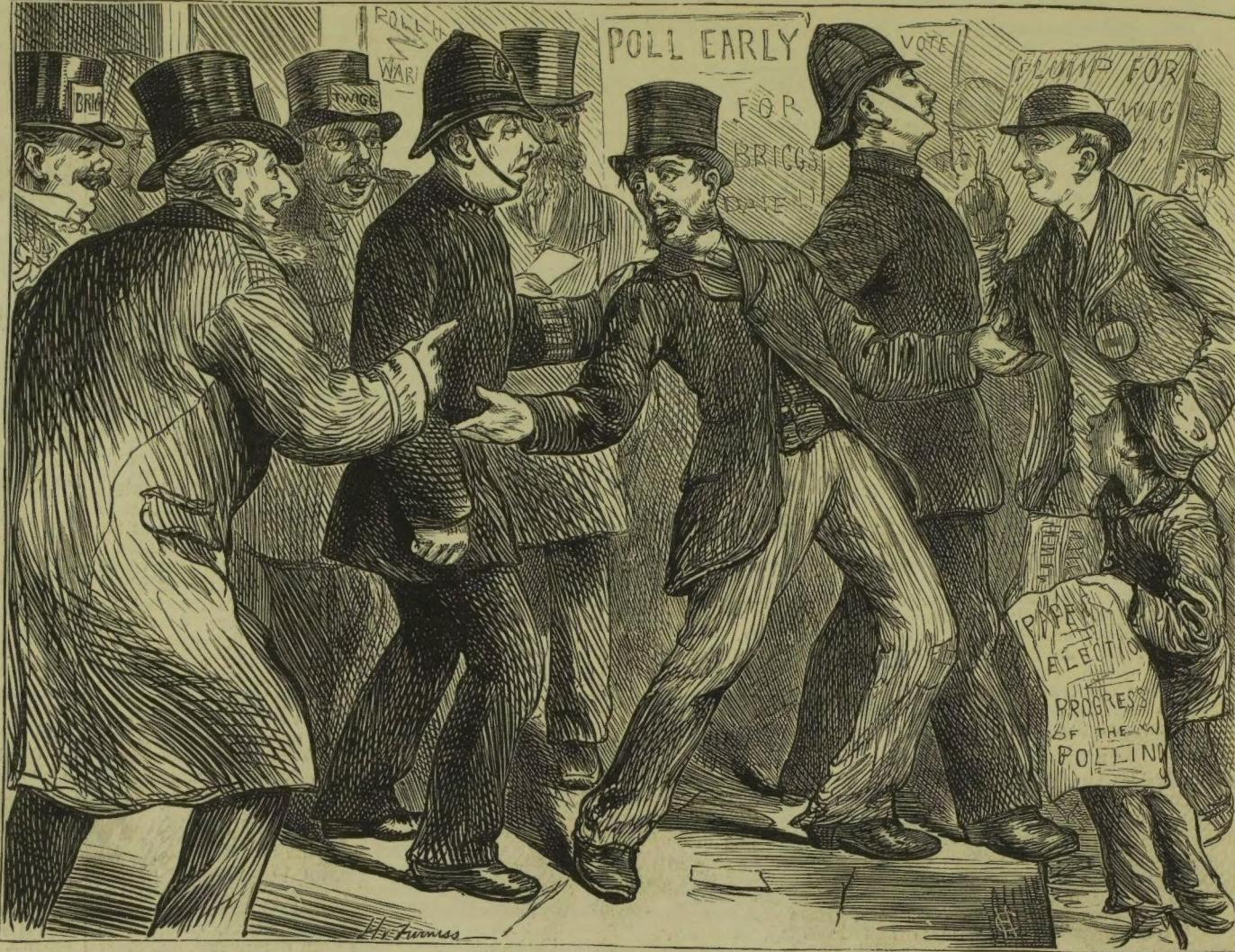
We have received the volume of the *Portfolio* for 1879. The periodical continues to be conducted with ability by Mr. Hamerton. The etchings and engravings are generally of high character, and there are some admirable examples of photographic and mechanical methods of reproduction, particularly that of M. Amand Durand. The selection, however, is, perhaps, scarcely so happy as in some previous years, the subjects of several of the illustrations being either extremely familiar or of little or altogether out-of-the-way interest. Among the more valuable articles are the series on "Aesthetics," by the editor, which are suggestive, though fragmentary, and sometimes open to question. Among the more interesting of the biographies of artists are those of Goya, also by the editor, and of Old Crome, by Mrs. Heaton. There is also a long series of illustrated papers on Oxford, by Mr. A. Lang. The Art-Chronicle will be found useful for reference.

A Guide to Modelling in Clay and Wax, by Moreton Edwards (Lechertier, Barbe, and Co.), contains some information for "beginners" on the implements used for modelling, but not much instruction on the processes; the book serves, however, to advertise the "professor" and a firm of artists'-colourmen. The secondary title, "Sculptural Art made Easy," is rather misleading as well as pretentious. A great deal more than is to be found in this small manual will be required by the serious student of sculptural art, and the best of guides will not render the art easy.

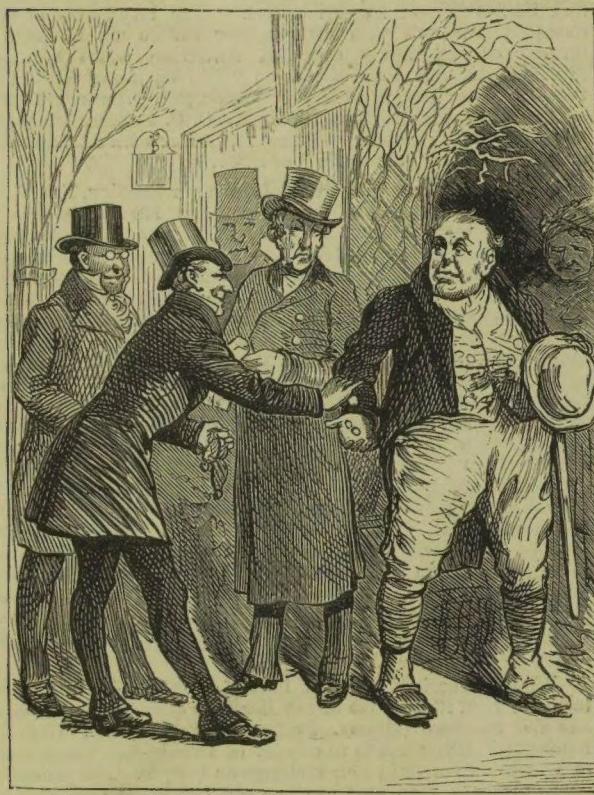
An approximate calculation puts the number of pins manufactured daily in Europe at 80,000,000. The quantity lost every day is about the same. The cost price of a pin varies from two to three-thousandths of a centime. England (Birmingham, London, and Dublin) produces most—50,000,000 a day.

ELECTION SKETCHES.

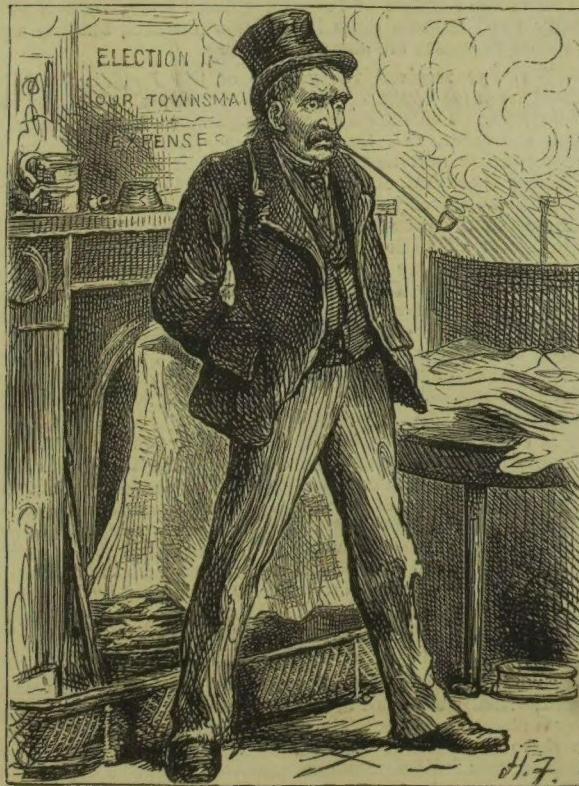
In this week of the actual fighting bustle, so far as concerns most of our cities and boroughs, that goes to decide the political issue joined between the parties for and against the Beaconsfield Ministry, we again fill some pages of our Journal with Sketches of a General Election. The scenes of canvassing, disputing, public speaking, and responsive cheering, or hissing, groaning, and hooting—the sitting of committees, and of snugly private managers, to arrange details of business, or to procure various kinds of service—the types of a popular and an unpopular candidate, of one who is agreeable to the ladies, and one who boasts himself most eager to grasp “the horny hand of the honest British workman, though hardened with useful toil”—the tricks which may be attempted at the polling-booth, in the way of personation or cunning abuse of the ballot—we behold all these, all the fair play and the foul play of this grand national sweepstakes on the race-course of competition for the aggregate majority of suffrages throughout the United Kingdom. It is a lively spectacle, with a great deal of human nature in it; and the diverse conditions of our social life, high and low, rich and poor, elegant and vulgar, as well as the far wider and more frequent diversities of personal character—the upright and the venal or dastardly, the generous and the self-seeking—in every class of worldly rank, are here brought into view at the call of a Royal invitation to use the electoral franchise. Many a man, in the esteem of his neighbours or townsfolk who have been watching his movements and listening to his talk with guesses or inquiries about the way he was likely to vote, will receive a certain stamp from this week's critical procedure. He may be as honest a tradesman, as kind a husband and father as anybody else, but the measure of his reputed intelligence,



THE FATE OF A PERSONATOR.



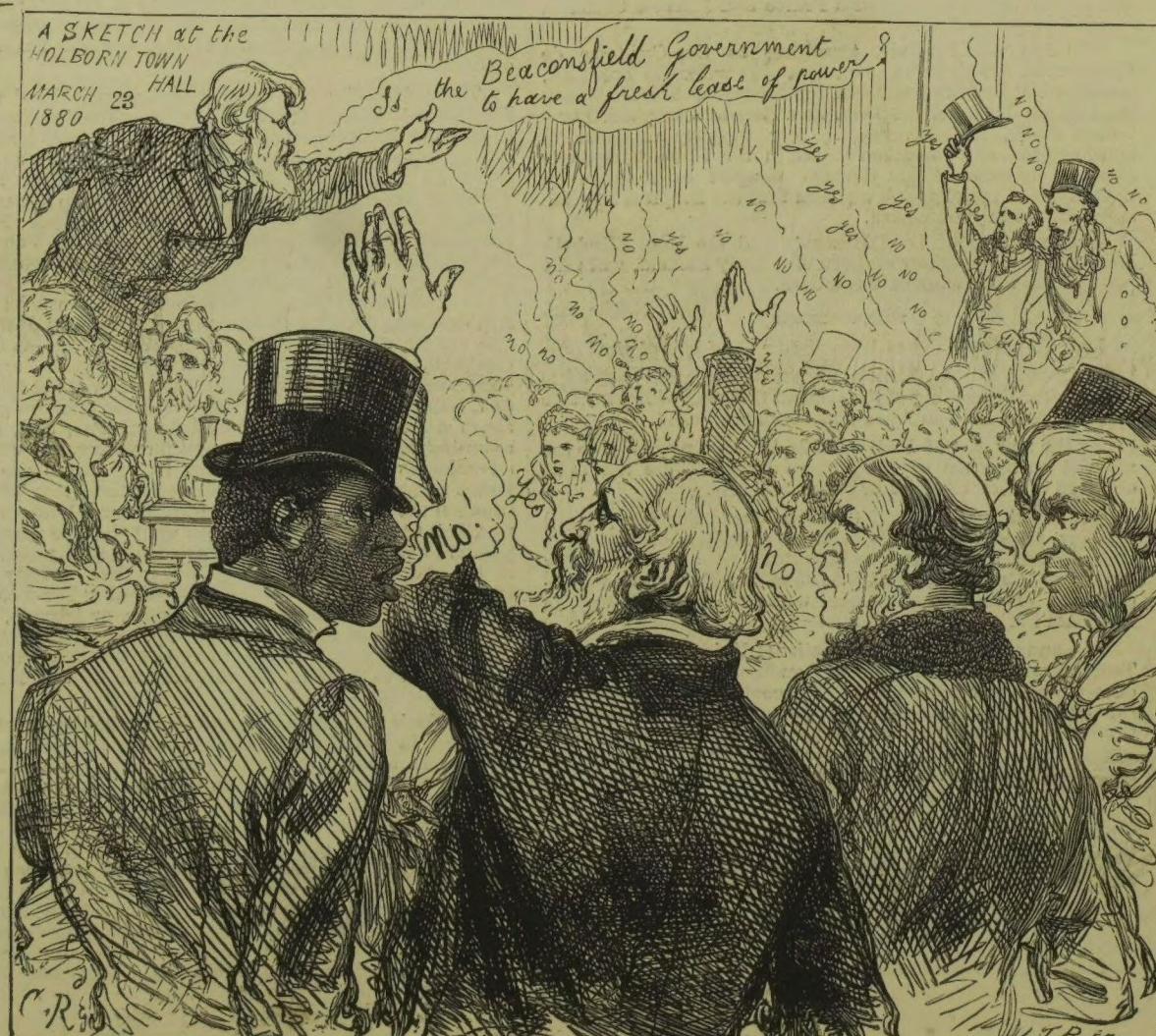
CANVASSING—OLD STYLE.

“TWO MILLIONS SPENT IN ELECTION EXPENSES,
AND I CAN'T GET A PENNY OF IT.”

of his general knowledge, and of his zeal for the public welfare, must be somewhat altered, they will mostly think, by his agreeing or differing with their political views. It is inevitable that such should be the reflex action upon ordinary life of a vast effort, through the General Election, to manifest the will of a free country upon grave national affairs. And this is better than a cold and stupid or slavish indifference to large interests and lofty ideas, to the wide concerns of government and legislation, and of “peace with honour” in the company of foreign States. It is better, so long as we all remember to show due regard for one another's liberty of judgment, and preserve neighbourly goodwill in spite of dissentient opinions.

The past and present days of restless turmoil, with all their deep excitement of feeling, have been outwardly, in most places, exempt from scenes of disorderly violence, such as were formerly witnessed in “the good old times,” before and after the Reform Bill of 1832, which men not yet aged can distinctly remember as an event heard of in their contemporary childhood. How the battle raged in each of those rotten little West Country boroughs, spared by the Whigs for reasons known to

themselves, where two or three rival millionaires, attended by their well-paid staff of election agents, attorneys to intrigue, and barristers to make speeches, writers of placards, of hand-bills, and paragraphs, as well as the election agents, the canvassers or buyers of votes, with unstinted rolls of guineas in hand, would come down from London, by successive post-chaises four-in-hand, to bid against each other for the bigger part of a small half-pauper constituency, numbering altogether less than 500 electors! Such campaigns have been seen in our lifetime, and therewith long revels of uproarious, ferocious, ribald humour and roistering fun; the reckless, good-natured English mob delighting in the license of tongue, in the continual exchange of coarse satire and of provoking taunts, as much as in the flow of beer and stronger liquors from every tap, the parade of music-bands and flaunting banners through the streets, the universal wearing of party colours by man, woman, and child, day after day, as the pending conflict waxed hotter in its factious fury. The interruption of outdoor meetings, but especially of the proceedings on nomination day, by the hostile party sending in a gang of savage chargers and plungers, armed with sticks and clubs, forcibly to cleave the assembled crowd asunder, driving a mass of harmless and defenceless people off the ground, was a very common



ELECTION SKETCHES.



THE LADIES' FAVOURITE.



THE MAN OF THE PEOPLE.



THE OLD VOTER WHO REMEMBERS THE FIRST REFORM BILL.



THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE.

manceuvre. This might appear an entertaining performance seen from the security of the hustings above, "to one who had no friend, no brother there," but who sat looking down upon the fray. We forbear to speak of the drinking and its effects, or of the actual bribing, the frauds on polling-day, the kidnapping, beating, or threatening of voters, and other downright criminal practices of the ancient system. The triumphal procession or "chairing" of a newly-elected M.P., with miles of carriages and horsemen, with a profuse display of orange and purple, or it might be pink and blue, in flags and streamers aloft from house-top and window, and in rosettes or garlands of ribbon that decorated all bonnets, hats, and breasts of his myriad supporters, was a very pretty sight. Great is the change of electioneering manners and customs in England during the last thirty years, as the younger generation may learn from some passages in Lord Beaconsfield's and Lord Lytton's novels, or from the Pickwickian experiences in the borough of Eatanswill. It is scarcely possible for caricature to surpass the reality of that wild and fantastic waste of popular energies and misuse of superior personal and social influences that was frequently exhibited upon such important occasions.

Now, turning over the six pages of Election Sketches and other Illustrations of this subject in our present Number, we may leave "the Old Voter who Remembers the First Reform Bill," to go on with his own personal recollections of that obsolete system of electioneering, upon which some retrospective remarks have been made. The "Old Style of Canvassing," which was frequently practised in those days when George or William, instead of our good Queen Victoria, reigned as King over this Constitutional realm, is depicted in a very Pickwickian sketch. Here we seem to recognise the trim figure of Mr. Perker, attorney-at-law, or one of the firm of Dodson and Fogg, with two demure satellites from a London office, transacting summary negotiations at the portal of that fortress of popular liberties, a freeborn Englishman's house and "castle." There is a golden, if not silver, key that will promptly open the sturdy door of political independence and seclusion to the emissaries of a wealthy candidate. "What shall we say, my dear Sir?" the wily tempter asks, with a cunning wink at the bluff and burly object of his pecuniary seductions. "We must consider your trouble and loss of time, of course; that is but right and fair. Shall we make it ten—or say, fifteen—or come now, I should say twenty?" So many of King George's yellow guineas, with the dragon and the sainted knight-errant thereon stamped, will presently drop from a purse into the country voter's ample and capacious palm, and will be silently transferred to the deep pocket of his drab breeches; while his name is safely booked for the approaching poll, *sans peur et sans reproche*, to the credit of the party, Whig or Tory, as the case may be. Such was the virtue of our grandfathers, in that imperfect state of being, morally and socially regarded, which prevailed in this country half a century ago "ere human statute purged the gentle weal." Bribery, treating, and personal intimidation, with various other practices but slightly noticed above, were actually committed, sometimes, by many of our unworthy predecessors, who had little idea, in their benighted condition, how wise and good and noble we, their offspring of this generation, should become.

But there is too much risk of indulging an undue self-complacency in this comparison of the past with the present age. The reformation of our electoral methods, as well as of the franchise and the local distribution of representative privilege, has again and again occupied the attention of legislators. Nomination, for instance, which used to mean a hideous riot and brawl of the worst rabble in the open market-place, with none of the speakers audible a stick's length from the hustings, and with savage insults or dirty missiles furiously hurled at their heads, is now extremely quiet. The returning officer sits with his clerks and other assistants in a guarded room, where only the several candidates, with their proposers and seconds, and perhaps a solicitor or agent, may enter to deliver the papers of nomination duly signed. Polling, likewise, in the old times a severe ordeal of constancy for the voter who had to speak aloud the choice that he dared to own, in the presence of his tyrants and of his enemies, braving their instant anger and future vengeance, has been reduced to a secret ritual of the mystic ballot. He presents the card showing his name and number on the register, and is furnished with an official paper bearing the names of the rival candidates; he retires to a sheltered desk, marks a cross opposite those for whom he wishes to vote, and, folding up the paper, he then by himself puts it into the box. The old crime of "personation," however, by the fraud of coming up to claim the registered franchise of another man, is still of possible occurrence. It has been made a felony, punishable with as much as two years' imprisonment and hard labour on the treadmill. So base an act is deserving, indeed, of some considerable penalty; and "the fate of a personator," led off by the police to durance vile, as he appears in one of our Artists' Sketches, will not excite much compassion. The modern type of "paid canvasser," who looks as if he might be a district visitor sent round by the parish clergy to ask subscriptions for the schools or the doles of soup and blankets, is far more decorous and respectable than election canvassers used to be. It would seem, to judge from that other figure on the same page, that "the Irish vote" has not much improved in quality; but we cannot venture, with the fear of Mr. Parnell and Mr. Biggar before our eyes, to dwell on this portentous subject, and would fain hope that there is some exaggeration in the ugly portrait which our Artist has drawn. Before quitting the topic of reforms and improvements, it may be observed that, somehow or other, incorruptible as we all now are, decent, sober, honest, civil, polite, orderly, and quiet, in our electioneering business, the aggregate cost of the big job, now going on all over the United Kingdom, is still estimated at two millions sterling! A club of statistical inquirers might find useful occupation in seeking to ascertain the principal ways of spending this huge sum of money. How much of it pays for the hire, at an inordinate rate, of committee-rooms at the numerous public-houses? How much for hundreds of cabs engaged from morn till night? How much for printing enormous piles of handbills and placards, in coloured ink, with great varieties of form and size, and for their circulation, by hired messengers and billstickers, in every street and lane of the town? How much for the enlistment of gangs of idle fellows, who are expected to do nothing but cheer and clap and stamp at the candidate's meetings, but are nowise forbidden to go and disturb those of the opposite party? We may well pause for a reply to these questions; they are not likely to be soon answered by the knowing managers. The "chairman of committee" is a very nice old gentleman, who has learned to keep his own counsel, and that of his local associates in political effort, in their "consolidation of co-operation," at such times as these. Nobody can be expected to step forth out of their secret conclave at the White Horse or at the Blue Lion, in order to give us the items of cost, and to say, "That's the way the money goes." Our unlucky fellow-citizen in the chimney-corner of the tap-room below, standing and smoking the pipe of impatience with an air of sullen indignation would like to know a little more

about it. The grievance to him, as he says, "that I can't get a penny of it," seems undeniable from his point of view. But the propriety and public advantage of much that is legally done, even where it does not amount to indirect bribery, may surely be disputed; and we hope that Parliament will soon be invited to impose some additional restraints on such proceedings.

As for popular meetings and platform speeches, to discuss or to expound the views of any political party, their effect is generally wholesome in awakening the spirit and intelligence of the less thoughtful minds, and in provoking a desire for real information. But there is apt to be a grotesque comicality in some aspects of these assemblies, notwithstanding the earnestness with which the well-meaning orators devote themselves energetically to the task of persuasion, in the face of a mixed multitude, part of which may be stupidly inattentive, part fiercely hostile, from some passionate prejudice, to the cause for which the speakers are pleading. The scene at the Holborn Townhall, which is the subject of our Illustration, affords a graphic example of this remark. We have more confidence in the successful elimination of truth and of sound principles by the process of a tranquil dialogue between the two sensible-looking men whose respective portraits, entitled "Argument" and "Unconvinced," are figured on another page. Looking, too, at him who is called "the Man of the People," with his countenance of manly firmness and settled thoughtfulness, his attitude of modest and gentle self-reliance, and the traces of a laborious and anxious life upon his face, we are happy to recognise the best type of the Englishman, and certainly not less of the Scotchman, the fitting and worthy advocate of Liberal principles. The remaining fancy portraits—those of the "Popular Candidate" and the "Unpopular Candidate," presenting themselves, each on the balcony of his hotel; the one with an obsequious bow and smirk of complacent greeting to his venal crowd of worshippers; the other, erect and stern, conscious of his own integrity, or pretending to be so conscious, defying the groans and hisses of an infuriated mob; these forcible impersonations can speak for themselves. And so can "The Ladies' Favourite," with his dandified airs of refinement and personal elegance, sufficiently indicate the nature of his claims to regard, which have little to do with intellectual capacity. The ladies, for their part, whoever be their favourite candidate, have very often proved their superior talent for the work of canvassing votes. Our front page Engraving, it will be observed, sets forth an incident of this kind with some degree of pleasantry. The good-natured shopkeeper, a grocer or Italian warehouseman, will yield to the entreaties of his fair visitors, as we already see. He knows that they, at least, are not going to take their custom to the Co-operative Stores.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

The *Journal Officiel* of Tuesday published the decrees of the Government respecting the religious congregations. The first article dissolves the Jesuits' Association and orders the closing of the schools and novitiate within three months.

An excited crowd attended the drawing of the lottery got up on behalf of the poor of Paris and of the sufferers by the Murcia inundations, which began on Sunday at the Palace of the Trocadéro in Paris. The fourteen grand prizes were drawn on Sunday, and the rest of the week has been devoted to the drawing of the other prizes, numbering 2664. M. Charles Mounier, Mayor of Combes, Pas de Calais, is given as the winner of the first prize of 100,000 francs.

The horse show at the Palais de l'Industrie opened on Wednesday, remaining open for a fortnight.

GERMANY.

The Emperor William, in acknowledging the congratulatory address presented by the Municipality of Berlin on the occasion of his Majesty's birthday, says:—"Having succeeded, with the help of the Almighty, in obtaining a satisfactory result to my efforts for the preservation of peace, I trust that the Divine assistance will be continued to me in future with the like result; and that, under the same protection, the commercial prosperity now returning after a long period of depression may become permanently strengthened on solid bases."

By Imperial command, the text of the telegrams exchanged between the Emperor William and the Czar on the celebration of the birthday of the former has been published by the *Official Gazette* of Berlin.

The gifts presented and periodical subscriptions promised in aid of either charitable or patriotic institutions as a means of celebrating the Emperor's Golden Wedding have been counted, and the total number has been found to amount to 686, representing a total value of 5,200,687 marks in gifts and donations, and 83,236 marks a year in subscriptions.

Professor Curtius, delivering the usual speech on the occasion of the birthday of the Emperor in the University of Berlin, said that, owing to the liberality of the Emperor, the excavations at Olympia can now be brought to a worthy end. Professors Curtius and Adler set out for Olympia on the 24th inst. They are accompanied by Councillor Kaupert, who is to make a survey of the environs of Olympia. The Emperor of Germany has granted 80,000 marks out of his private purse to complete the enterprise.

Count Herbert von Bismarck, the German Chancellor's eldest son, has been promoted from the rank of Secretary of Legislation to that of Councillor of Legation.

Herr H. B. Oppenheim, the well-known national Liberal author, and member of the German Parliament, died on Monday night, at Berlin. He was one of the few South Germans who advocated unity, under Prussian auspices, even prior to 1866.

A Berlin engineer, in connection with the Messrs. Erlanger, has asked to be permitted to connect every house in the capital with a central telephone station.

RUSSIA.

A telegram from St. Petersburg on Tuesday states that the Empress of Russia was fast sinking.

An official announcement has been made at St. Petersburg of the great precautions that are to be taken to ensure the safety of the Winter Palace and its inmates. Each floor is to be in charge of officers of the Imperial Guard, who are required to know personally every servant, and to arrest all strangers whose business is unknown.

General Loris Melikoff is rendering himself popular at St. Petersburg by releasing innocent prisoners and alleviating the treatment of those confined in the dungeons of the city.

Another secret printing press has been discovered in St. Petersburg, and sixteen arrests have been made. Two newspapers have each received a first warning from the censor.

M. Martens, a Professor of International Law at St. Petersburg, has, at the request of the Russian Admiralty, given a lecture at the Cronstadt Naval Club upon Central Asia. He expressed a strong opinion that a struggle between England and Russia would be a great misfortune for both nations, and

urged the necessity for a friendly solution of the Central Asian question.

The *Daily News* has intelligence regarding the Russian expedition in Central Asia by a despatch from Teheran of Monday night's date. It is reported that at Tchikislar and Chatte preparations are singularly backward. The entire force is 2000, and General Mouravieff commands provisionally. The despatch adds that the Turcomans refuse to pay the four years' taxes demanded by the Shah and are blockading the Persian camp.

The possibility of war between Russia and China is said to be freely discussed at St. Petersburg; but (according to the correspondent of the *Standard*), while it cannot be said that peace is not in danger, some of those who are best qualified to form a sound judgment in the matter think a collision will be avoided.

TURKEY.

The Porte is again in a difficulty about money. The army contractors, to whom five millions are owing, have resolved to furnish no more supplies until the arrears are paid.

The latest instance of the financial difficulties of the Porte is the reduction of the salaries of the Counsellors of State to a uniform sum of five thousand piastres per month, which is less than half of what some of them have been in the habit of receiving.

The Porte, desiring to restrict the activity of Midhat Pasha in inaugurating reforms in Syria, has taken from him two thirds of his territory, and limited his administration to the vilayet of Damascus.

The decree which depreciated the value of Ottoman silver has been repealed.

GREECE.

M. Tricoupis, President of the Ministry, and interim Minister of Finance, introduced the Budget on Monday in the Chamber of Deputies. He estimated the expenditure at 6,816,000 drachmas less than the original Budget as presented by the last Ministry.

M. Coumoundouros intends, it is stated, introducing bills to increase the revenue by 3,000,000 drachmas. He proposes to abolish the tithe system of taxation, which has hitherto been universally in force.

EGYPT.

It has been decided upon by the Council of Ministers to abolish taxes in kind in Upper Egypt.

Egypt is preparing for a war with Abyssinia, in which the latter country threatens to become the aggressor. King John has obtained a great victory over some rebel chiefs, and added their warrior subjects to his army. Egypt is fortifying two harbours in the Gulf of Aden.

AMERICA.

President Hayes has nominated Mr. James B. Angell American Minister to China, in the place of Mr. Seward, who has been recalled. He has also nominated two Commissioners to proceed to China to negotiate a treaty with that country.

The Senate has confirmed the nomination of Mr. Bret Harte as United States Consul at Glasgow, and has ratified the treaty relative to the French claims without amendment.

The controversy on the Tariff question in the States House of Representatives has attracted great attention. The House on Tuesday considered the tariff question for six hours, great confusion and excitement at times prevailing, and the debate was renewed on Wednesday. The House on Thursday sent the bill to the Committee of Ways and Means, the Protectionists carrying the day on a test vote by 142 to 100. Thirty-four Democrats and Greenbackers voted with 108 Republicans in the affirmative. This included sixteen from the Middle States, eleven from the South, three from New England, three from Indiana, and one from Wisconsin. The entire minority were Democrats. This week has been the most exciting of the Session, the result showing that Congress will not reduce the Tariff.

The Texas Republican Convention has selected sixteen delegates to the National Convention to support General Grant as a candidate for the Presidency, but did not instruct them further than to vote as a unit in this sense. General Grant, speaking at a banquet at Galveston, said that he wished the people of the South would forget in their prosperity that there was a boundary between the North and the South, as all would be happier and more prosperous when sectional feeling had disappeared. He also expressed the hope that the country would progress happily and contentedly without being too much governed. The *Boston Advertiser* states that a despatch from Washington positively announces that the General will withdraw his candidature for the presidency. The report, however, is said to require confirmation.

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The lock-out which has existed since the 15th inst. in the piano-forte factories in New York terminated last week. The manufacturers have been unable to agree among themselves respecting the rate of wages, and the men have consequently returned to work on their own terms.

The relief ship *Constellation* is entirely loaded, having on board 3058 barrels of provisions, with a considerable quantity of boys' clothing. The Secretary of the Navy instructs Commander Potter to sail to Dublin, and there deliver the cargo to the *New York Herald* Committee, that they may dispose of it according to their discretion. The ship sailed last Saturday. All the services connected with the departure, the loading, lighterage, pilotage, and towage, were contributed free. The Philadelphia Relief Fund reaches 37,466 dollars.

CANADA.

The Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick last week rejected a proposal to move the seat of Government to St. John by 20 votes to 18.

Sir Francis Hincks and the other directors of the Consolidated Bank have been acquitted of the charges made against them in connection with the affairs of that establishment.

The Canadian team who are to participate in the rifle competition at Wimbledon this year have been selected. The team numbers twenty men, eight of whom are from Ontario, four from Quebec, three from Nova Scotia, one from New Brunswick, one from Prince Edward's Island, two from Manitoba, and one from British Columbia.

A Toronto despatch states that Mr. George Brown, Canadian Senator and leader of the Reform party, was shot in the thigh on Thursday week by a discharged employé, who was immediately arrested. Mr. Brown's wound is not dangerous.

INDIA.

A telegram from the *Daily News* correspondent at Lahore states that Fort Battye was attacked on Friday night. Lieutenant Angelo and twelve men were killed and nineteen sepoy and followers were wounded. The enemy were repulsed.

According to a Cabul telegram, Mr. Griffin has stated to the chief Sirdars that there will be no permanent annexation, that Yakoob Khan will not be reinstated, that it is considered

advisable to separate Afghanistan into its old constituent provinces; and that, with regard to a ruler for Cabul and Afghan Turkestan, the Government will be solely guided by the will of the people, but the ruler must be strong enough to maintain peace in his own territories and on the British boundaries.

A telegram of Monday's date from Cabul says that fighting continues between Mahomed Jan and the Hazaras. The news of the defeat of the former is doubted. It is added that considerable excitement prevails, and it is reported that a rising is intended along the line of communication.

The *Times* has a despatch from Candahar which states that General Stewart and the head-quarters of the Bengal Division marched on Tuesday for Khelat-i-Ghilzai. The remaining portion was to leave on Wednesday. Major Evan Smith remains in political charge at Candahar until relieved by Colonel St. John. The forward movement of the whole force from Khelat-i-Ghilzai on Ghuznee will be made on April 8. The troops are in excellent health and spirits.

A telegram from Calcutta states that all the Naga chiefs have now submitted to the British, and that the operations against them have ceased.

The Duke of Cambridge (a Bombay telegram in the *Standard* says) has pointed out that the regulations of the service do not sanction the employment of officers as newspaper correspondents, and has desired instructions to be issued to prevent any infringement of these orders. In compliance with these instructions, the Government have announced that it is necessary to extend to regimental officers of both services the prohibition already applied to staff officers, and six weeks have been allowed to the newspapers to make other arrangements.

BRAZIL.

The new Ministry has been constituted as follows:—President of the Council and Minister of Finance, Senhor Saraiva; Minister of the Empire, Senhor De Mello; Minister of War, Visconde De Pelotas; Minister of Marine, Senhor Lima Duartes; Minister of Justice, Senhor Souza Dantas; Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senhor Pedro Luiz; Minister of Agriculture, Commerce, and Public Works, Senhor Buarque de Macedo.

It has been officially announced at the Hague that the Queen of the Netherlands is *enceinte*.

Ismail Pasha, the ex-Khedive of Egypt, had a farewell audience of King Humbert on Thursday week.

In the Belgian Chamber last week a motion was adopted for a Parliamentary inquiry into elementary education.

Several rivers in Alicante and Murcia have overflowed their banks, and inundated the towns of Alcira and Orihuela.

Towards defraying the expenses of restoring Tell's Chapel, the canton of Zurich has subscribed 8000f.

The *Panama Star and Herald* says that the Columbians declare that they will not submit to either a French or an American protectorate over the inter-oceanic canal.

News has reached New York that the business portion of Samana, San Domingo, was burned down on the 9th ult., and that the loss is estimated at 150,000 dols.

The current number of the *Parisian* (an excellent newspaper, printed in Paris for English-speaking persons on the Continent) contains a new story written for it by Bret Harte.

A letter from Signor Farini has been published in which he announces his determination of persisting in his resignation of the presidency of the Italian Chamber of Deputies.

It is announced from Cape Town that the Peace Preservation Act is to be forthwith proclaimed in Basutoland, the Government having refused to accede to the petition against the disarmament of the natives.

In celebration of the 300th anniversary of the foundation of Buenos Ayres, the Government of the Argentine Republic purpose holding an Exhibition during the period from Sept. 15 to the end of the year. The Exhibition is intended to be international so far as regards machinery, implements, &c.

Tuesday's *Gazette* announces that Mr. Edward Hyde Hewett has been appointed British Consul for the Island of Fernando Po and certain territories on the Western Coast of Africa; and Commander Lynedoch Needham Moncrieff, R.N., British Consul for French Guiana, resident at Cayenne.

The Danish Criminal Court has sentenced Baron Gedalia, the chief of the banking house trading under the name Gedalia et Cie., Diplomatic Agent of the Bey of Tunis, late Consul-General of Portugal, the possessor of a dozen grand crosses and other decorations, to one month's imprisonment for using cancelled stamps on stocks and bills.

It is the intention of the King of Siam to leave Bangkok early in April, with a numerous suite, for the purpose of paying a visit to the chief capitals of Europe. After a short stay in England, the King will leave for the United States of America.

A *Daily News* telegram says that since 1870 Rome has never been so full of visitors for Holy Week as now. The crowd on Thursday week at St. Peter's was immense, and the presence of the Queen among the worshippers caused general enthusiasm, though the windows of the Vatican were closed at sight of the Royal liveries in the distance.

The great success of the Nice International Regatta this year has induced the town to undertake the organisation for next year of a prize of 100,000f. for yachts of 40 tons and above. Besides the prize of 100,000f., 10,000f. will be given to the second yacht, and 5000f. to the third. Twenty-five yachts must be engaged, or the conditions may be modified.

Besides the mails already announced to be dispatched during the second quarter of the year by the subsidised services to Australia and New Zealand, fortnightly mails will be carried by the "Orient" Line. These additional mails will be made up in London on the evenings of the following alternate Fridays, viz.:—April 2, 16, and 30; May 14 and 28; June 11 and 25; letters from the provinces to be posted in time to reach Plymouth on the Saturday mornings. Letters will be charged at the rate of 6d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; newspapers, 1d. each; and must be addressed "per Orient Linesteamer, via Plymouth."

The bombardment of Arica, the principal seaport of Southern Peru, by the Chilians on Feb. 27, does not seem to have been altogether successful. The Chilian transports brought up 12,000 troops, nine thousand of whom were landed at Ilo without encountering any resistance. It was then determined to attack Arica, but the forts and the Peruvian monitor which they sheltered replied vigorously, and compelled the Chilian vessels to return to their anchorage. The Peruvian monitor came out to meet them, and an encounter ensued, the vessels coming within a hundred yards of each other. The Huascar, however, refrained from ramming the Manco-Capa, as the latter was towing a torpedo-vessel. A shell from the Peruvian ship shattered the mizenmast of the Huascar and killed her commander, Captain Thompson. The engagement lasted for an hour afterwards, and appears to have ended in the retreat of the Chilian vessels.—A despatch from Panama has been received at the Chilian Legation at New York, reporting that Moquegua has been occupied by 14,000 Chilian troops without fighting.

THE CHURCH.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Atkinson, C. S., to be Rector of Kirby Sigston, near Northallerton.
Bell, John William Bussey; Vicar of Baconston, New Oxon.
Bell, John B.; Vicar of Bampton Lew, Oxon.
Bennett, John; Vicar of Holy Trinity, Bedford; Rector of Rushock.
Bent, Robert Paul; Licensed Preacher in the Diocese of Oxford.
Biggs, George Howard; Rector of Marholm, Northamptonshire.
Blomfield, Arthur; Rural Dean of Ampthill, Diocese of Ely.
Brown, F.; Honorary Canon of Durham Cathedral.
Collett, Anthony; Curate; Rector of Hastingleigh, near Ashford.
Curwen, A. J. G.; Rector of Duxton, Westmorland.
Davenport, Canon; Archdeacon of Hobart Town.
Driffield, G. T.; Rector of Old, Northamptonshire.
Elwyn, Canon; Vicar of Ramsgate; Rural Dean of Westhere.
Flood, Samuel; Vicar of St. Mark's, St. John's-wood.
Freeman, F.; Vicar of Middleton; Rector of Wickersley.
Heelis, J.; Rector of Kirkby Thore, Westmorland.
Hopkyns, T. Daniel; Rector of All Saints' and St. Andrew's, Chichester.
King, Wingfield William; Vicar of Wraysbury, Bucks.
Leonard, Arthur Allen, Curate of Bridport; Vicar of Fordington.
Lockwood, Samuel Davis; Rector of Kingham, Oxon.
M'Causland, A. H.; Rector of Wishaw.
Macdougall, H.; Chaplain of Stamford Infirmary.
Mam, F. W.; Rector of St. Mary de Castro, Guernsey.
Miller, William S.; Vicar of Morton Morrell.
Moberly, H. E.; Vicar of Heckfield, Hants.
Pickles, J. S.; Vicar of Wooler.
Pilcher, Giles Theodore; Rector of Letcombe Bassett, Berks.
Reynolds, Joseph W.; Prebendary of Rugmire in St. Paul's Cathedral.
Robinson, Thomas; Rector of Hindclay, Suffolk.
Slatter, Canon John; Rector of Whitchurch, Oxon.
Symonds, Frederick Murray; Rector of Saxelby, Leicestershire.
Vale, Harry Burton; Vicar of Gaddesby, Leicestershire.
Waite, J.; Vicar of Norham; Rural Dean of Norham.
Ward, J. C.; Perpetual Curate of Rydal, Westmorland.
Wood, J. R.; Vicar of Stanwix, Cumberland.—*Guardian*.

The Bishop of Manchester has contributed £50, and Mrs. Fraser £50, to the fund for the Liverpool bishopric.

On Tuesday the Lord Chancellor laid the foundation-stone of St. Paul's permanent Church at Bournemouth. It is to accommodate 700 worshippers. It is intended at present only to complete the chancel, the choir, the transept, and one bay of the nave.

The parish Church of St. John the Baptist, Pinner, Middlesex, has recently been enlarged and completely restored, at the cost of £4000, by Mr. W. A. Tooke, of Pinner-hill, one of the churchwardens of the parish. The architect is Mr. Pearson, A.R.A. In addition to the work on the fabric, Mr. William Barber, of Barrow-point, Pinner, has given a handsome organ, built by Messrs. Walker, of London; and choir stalls, stained glass, and other gifts have been presented by several parishioners.

The usual Good Friday services were held in London. Dean Stanley preached in the morning at the Chapel Royal, St. James's, where the Prince and Princess of Wales and Prince Leopold attended. In his sermon the Dean alluded to the barriers of distinction drawn in our cemeteries between Churchmen and Nonconformists. Many would smile at those distinctions, which presented in an exaggerated form the estrangement which religious and political adversaries had in times of excitement carried on through life and in death. The Dean preached in the afternoon in the Abbey, taking for his text, "Now there was darkness over all the land from the sixth until the ninth hour."

An appeal from the Court of Appeal reversing a judgment of the Queen's Bench Division, in regard to the Clewer ritual case was last week decided in the House of Lords Appeal, the judgment of the Appeal Court being sustained. On knowing of this decision Mr. Carter placed his resignation in the Bishop's hands. In his letter, which is dated "Wednesday in Holy Week," Mr. Carter says he feels that he cannot longer take advantage of the Bishop's forbearance, and he is unable to conscientiously give up the practices in the services of the Church which have been objected to. Considering, moreover, the divided state of the parish, he feels it his duty to retire, though, as he says, the severance of a connection which has existed for thirty-six years has been resolved upon by him with sore reluctance.

The *Guardian* reports the following testimonials to the Rev. W. M. Birch, M.A., Proctor in Convocation for the diocese of Truro, on his leaving the vicarage of Launceston for that of Ashburton:—An oval massive silver tea-tray, with coat of arms engraved in the centre, and the following inscription:—"Presented to the Rev. Wickham Montgomery Birch, M.A., for thirteen years Vicar of St. Mary Magdalene, Launceston, by members of his congregation and other friends, as a slight token of the respect and affection he won during his ministry. February, 1880." A brass altar-desk from the parish choir, inscribed, "Esteeming him very highly in love for his work's sake;" a pair of silver side dishes, &c., from the members of the Launceston District Clergy and Church Teachers Association, of which Mr. Birch was first secretary and then president; a copy of Wordsworth's Greek Testament and of the "Catena Aurea," with an enlarged photograph, handsomely framed, of the south porch of Launceston church, from the local branch of the Church Society of Holy Living, of which he was Warden; an album from the mothers' meeting; and a copy of Macaulay's "Writings and Speeches" from the boys of the National School.

The eastern aisle of the north transept of the parish church, Melton Mowbray, used as a baptistery, has been greatly improved by the erection of a richly-stained window in memory of the late Sir Francis Grant, President of the Royal Academy. The subject is taken from the Life of St. Luke, in three cartoons, representing St. Luke writing the Acts of the Apostles in company with St. Paul, a full-length figure of St. Luke with palette and brushes, and St. Luke as a "physician," attending a sick man, with a lady reading God's word at the bedside. The lower panels are filled with angels bearing scrolls with the words from the Gospel by St. Luke, "Be ye therefore ready also; for the Son of man cometh." In the centre a representation of St. Luke painting a portrait of St. Paul has been introduced with striking effect. The tracery contains the arms of the families of Norman and Grant, with the badges of the latter, Bilberries, and Heather, surmounted with the crest—a burning mountain. The inscription is—"To the glory of God and in loving memory of Sir Francis Grant, President of the Royal Academy. Born Jan. 18, 1803; died Oct. 5, 1878." This window was erected as a tribute of affection by the relations of Sir Francis and Lady Grant; and the text, which was exemplified in the life of the deceased, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might, for there is no work, no device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave whither thou goest," completes the work, which has been carried out by Messrs. Wailes and Strang, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, together with an ornamental brass in memory of the eldest daughter of the deceased.

THE UNIVERSITIES AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

OXFORD.

Mr. B. W. Randolph, B.A., of Balliol, has been elected to one of the Denyer and Johnson Theological Scholarships. No election has been made to the second scholarship.

Mr. William E. Symons, B.A., of University College, has been elected to one of the Fereday Fellowships at St. John's.

Mr. H. W. Malony, unattached student, has been appointed to the vacant Bible clerkship at All Souls' College.

Mr. W. C. Cotes, of Royse's School, Abingdon, has been elected to an Abingdon Scholarship at Pembroke College.

The Vice-Chancellor has announced that Mr. G. H. Stutfield, B.A., of University College, has been elected Vinerian Scholar.

The examiners appointed by the trustees for the Hall and Hall-Houghton prizes have reported to the Vice-Chancellor that they have elected as follows:—To the Senior Greek Testament Prize, J. O. Johnston, B.A., Keble; to the Junior ditto, F. J. Powell, B.A., unattached. A. R. Buckland, Pembroke, and A. G. S. Gibson, B.A., Corpus, proxime accesserunt. For the Senior Septuagint Prize there was no candidate. To the Junior Septuagint Prize, C. W. Ridley, B.A., University College; H. Gee, B.A., Exeter College, proxime accessit. To the Syriac Prize, D. S. Margoliouth, New College. The examiners recommend Mr. A. R. Buckland, Mr. A. G. S. Gibson, and Mr. H. Gee for a present of books of the value of £5 each.

CAMBRIDGE.

The Classical Tripos list was published in the Senate House on Thursday week:

FIRST CLASS.	
Perry, King's	Bury, Trinity
Parry, Trinity	Harrison, John's
Edwards, Trinity	Pennyman, Trinity
Colson, John's	Jackson, Trinity
Chance, Trinity	Spence, Trinity
Parker, King's	Williams, Sydney
Ridgeway, Caius	Prest, Jesus
Turner, Jesus	Williams, A., John's
Robinson, Trinity	Hughes, Magdalene
Bird, Trinity	Sandsy, John's
Smith, King's	Schneider, Caius.
Tanner, Pembroke	
Hubberley, St. Cath.	
Gibb, Trinity	
Haines, St. Cath.	Johnson, G. W., Trin.
Hodson, Magdalene	Jones-Bateman, Clare
Sutcliffe, John's	Letts, Jesus
Lafone, Trinity	Cann, Clare
Pain, Christ Church	Lawrence, King's
	Pares, Trinity
	Smyth, King's
	Taylor, John's
	Whitecock, Trinity
	Foley, King's
	Johnson, H., Trinity
	Rix, Queens'
	Macpherson, Trinity
	Stable, Emmanuel

THIRD CLASS.

Johnson, G. W., Trin.

Jones-Bateman, Clare

Letts, Jesus

Cann, Clare

Lawrence, King's

Pares, Trinity

Smyth, King's

Taylor, John's

Whitecock, Trinity

Foley, King's

Johnson, H., Trinity

Puttock, Jesus

Torr, Trinity

Brookes, Christ's.

The brackets denote equality in merit.

The following open scholarships and exhibitions have been awarded at Emmanuel College:—

For Mathematics—£70 foundation scholarships, tenable till B.A., to E. Trevor, Malvern College; £50 exhibition, tenable for two years, to C. H. French, Wesleyan College, Taunton; and a £40 exhibition, for two years, to T. G. Creek, Owens College, Manchester. For Classics—£50 exhibition, tenable for two years, to E. P. Gaskin, New Kingsworth, Bath; £35 Johnson exhibition, to J. S. Austin, Felsted School; and a £30 exhibition, for two years, to A. A. T. Crosse, Norwich School. For Natural Science—E. J. Swain, Manchester Grammar School, has been awarded a £70 minor scholarship for two years.

At Christ's College the following is the result of the open examination for scholarships:—

E. J. Robson, Repton School, £50 a year; J. B. Holt, Lancing College, £30 a year; J. H. Mallinson, St. Peter's, York, £30 a year; M. Scott, King's School, Canterbury, £30 a year. For Natural Science: H. S. Maudsley, Giggleswick School, £50; and A. E. Shipley, private tuition, £30.

At Sidney College the following open scholarships have been awarded:—

Carpenter, Blundell's School, Tiverton, £60; Kuchler, University of Edinburgh, £60; Kewley, King William's College, Isle of Man, £40; Atkinson, Highgate School, £40; Stoke, Merchant Taylors' School, £40; Thornhill, Malvern College, a Johnson Exhibition; Summers, City of London School, and Andrews, University College, exhibitions of £30.

The following awards of scholarships have been made, consequent upon the recent competitive examinations:—

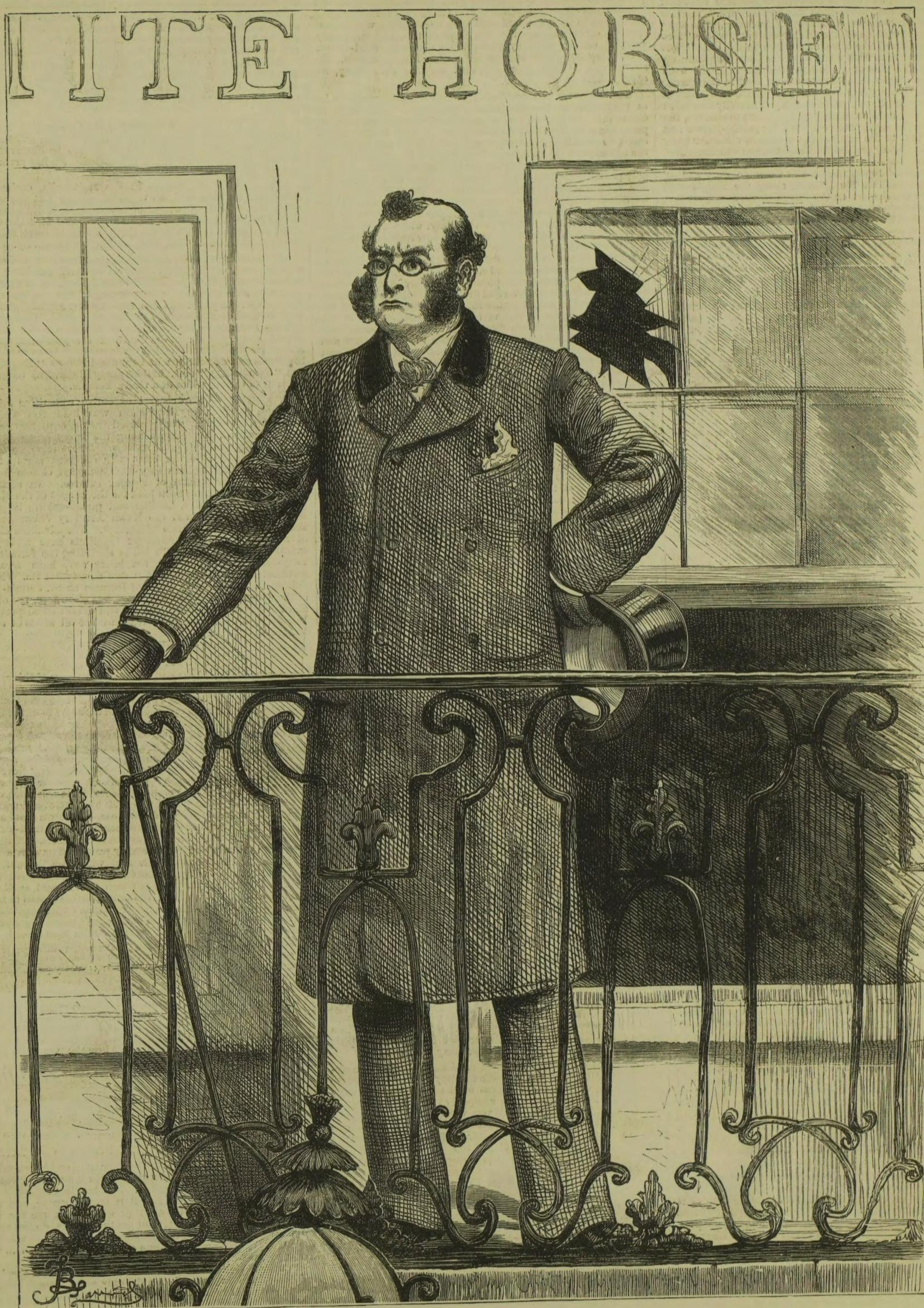
At St. Peter's—Baylis, Wolverhampton Grammar-school; Knott, Durwich College; Hewett, King Edward's School, Birmingham; Thistleton, Birkenhead School, At Jesus'-Rue, private tuition; Thomas, Merchant Taylors' School; Wilson, Rossall School; Weiden, Haileybury School; Layng, Oundle School; Bull, Shrewsbury School; Lewis, private tuition, an Exhibition. At Caius—Classics: E. A. Gardner, City of London School; J. Adam, Aberdeen University; A. J. Grant, Boston School; Mathematics: W. H. Storey, Charterhouse; A. Graham, Sligo School; A. W. Wiseman; Natural Science: R. Threlfall, Clifton College; W. P. Graham, University College School, At Clare—Mathematics: Bolton; Ohmi; Classics: Holland; Leaman, an Exhibition. Natural Science Scholarship not awarded. At Trinity Hall—W. Blain, Manchester Grammar-School; G. Mason, Rossall School; H. S. Romer, University. At St. John's—G. B. Matthews, University Hall and Ludlow; Macfarlane, Academic Institution, Belfast; Christie, Highgate; H. W. Smith, Tombridge; Jenkins, private tuition; Hogg, Durham; Semple, Academic Institution, Belfast; Scott-Taylor, Grocers' School, Hackney; Clementson, Newcastle-under-Lyme; Pollock, Merchant Taylors'. Mr. Scott-Taylor and Mr. Clementson obtained their Scholarships for Natural Science, and Mr. Pollock for Hebrew.

A movement has been set on foot by the classical professors at King's and University Colleges, in conjunction with the committee of the King's College lectures to ladies, to provide for instruction in Greek art, and to utilise the collections of the British Museum with that object. Mr. C. T. Newton, C.B., has undertaken to deliver the first course, consisting of eight lectures on Greek sculpture and painting, at the Botanical Theatre, University College, during the months of May

LION HOT



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THE GENERAL ELECTION : THE UNPOPULAR CANDIDATE.—SEE PAGE 316.

TALK OF THE WEEK.

"But O she dances such a way! No sun upon an Easter Day is half so fine a sight," sings Sir John Suckling when he is commemorating in verse the wedding of Roger Boyle, the first Earl of Orrery (then Lord Broghill) with the beautiful Lady Margaret Howard, daughter to Theophilus Earl of Suffolk, of whom the self-same poet once said in one of his letters: "I know you have but one way to teach me to get into love, and will prescribe me now to look upon Mistress Howard." There is no reason to dispute the good taste of Suckling, or to deny the attractive fascination of the celebrated lady, whose "feet beneath her petticoat like little mice stole in and out;" but if she were fairer than such a sun as shone upon Brighton on Easter Day in the year of grace 1880, then, indeed, she were worthy of a poet's praise. Dry it was and cold in the shade, but everything sparkled the day before the battle on the Sussex Downs; sea, parade, flower gardens, and pier literally danced in the sun, and, as I have constantly had occasion to observe, the exhilaration of the atmosphere emptied the public-houses and gave a moral tone to the whole of the enormous volunteer army that has been so justly praised for its abstinence and discipline. This year I had occasion to attentively watch the volunteers on their arrival and departure. I saw them on duty and off duty, in billets and on the Parade, along the King's-road and during the march past on the Race Course, and from first to last better behaviour it would be impossible to find. The members of the civilian army positively thrust themselves forward and came prominently into notice in order that they might salute an officer, and show the force of obedience. The pipe-smoking in the streets when in uniform looked a little rough; but, considering that the majority of them had no change of clothes, it would have been affectation, not to say unreasonable cruelty, to have put their pipes out when off duty.

Very general remarks were made at Brighton concerning the scanty wardrobe in the possession of this important section of our auxiliary forces, but luckily the open sea and the inclosed baths afforded refreshment to those who were necessarily compelled not to be squeamish in the matter of changes of raiment. But even the volunteers are provided with limited trappings that will carry something, and are consequently so much the better than the boys on the bicycles, who visit these holiday cities literally in the things they stand up in, and have grown to substitute silk handkerchiefs for linen collars during these excursions over enormous tracts of country. In spite of the opposition in certain quarters, this invigorating amusement is apparently more popular than ever, and has been so firmly established that no ridicule can now stop it, and nothing but bad weather will destroy its charm.

Miss Elizabeth Thompson (Mrs. Butler) may consider herself a very fortunate lady to have met with such distinguished honour as has been paid to her this year by the authorities at the Royal Academy in creating, on her account, a very formidable and dangerous precedent. This clever and popular lady, as everyone knows, is painting a large and important canvas purporting to be the scene at Rorke's Drift during the recent Zulu campaign; but it has not been so rapidly executed as was the case with M. de Neuville, who has selected the same subject and exhibited it already to the public. In point of fact, Mrs. Butler was late with her work, and according to the rules would have been shut out of the Academy Exhibition; but she has obtained a month's grace, which has never yet been given to anyone before of whatever rank or station. The picture is to be accepted without being seen, to be adjudicated upon without being present at Burlington House, and to be hung according to the limits of the frame, which is to represent "Rorke's Drift" for the moment. By this device the artist will be able to be ready by the "Press day," that is to say, by the Wednesday or Thursday before the first Monday in May. It is said that the highest influence was sought and obtained in order to secure this privilege, and courtesy forbids any question as to the policy of the Royal Academy Council. There can surely be no shadow of doubt that the picture would have been unanimously accepted if ready, and, in addition to the pleasure of paying a compliment to so distinguished a lady, the authorities doubtless felt that they were securing a certain popularity for the forthcoming exhibition, that is, so rumour declares, to contain very remarkable works by Mr. Orchardson, Mr. Gow, and Mr. Alma Tadema.

Amongst the dead or dying arts is the rare gift of cultivated and expressive ballad-singing. Our age is too fast and hurried to allow us to pause while someone, touching the piano with exquisite finish, warbles out a pure and wholesome ditty, with but little voice, perhaps, but with a style that quickly reaches the heart and eyes. Amongst the last singers of this good old school, a very master of simple sentiment, is William Wrighton, the author of "Her bright smile haunts me still," and many a ballad as pure and wholesome as the primroses in a wood on a spring morning. All those who have heard William Wrighton piping out "Shylie Bawn" and other ditties of his own composition will regret that he is in "the downhill of life," but will rejoice that, before he quits the scene that he has so often cheered with his presence and his melody, his friends intend to present him with a testimonial and bid him an affectionate farewell from public life. At the evening parties of long ago, when Mr. Corney Grain and the younger Mr. Grossmith were in their cradles, it was Wrighton who (with John Parry) used to amuse cultivated society with his pretty songs and finished art. There is an infinite grace in the melodies so constantly poured out by the former, and, strange to say, as he has often informed his friends, his most sentimental songs were all composed in railway-trains. There must be something in the rhythm of the engine that induces composition, for verse-makers find the same facility in writing stanzas during a railway journey. There was once a very popular song by Wrighton called the "Postman's Knock" that was conceived and finished during a brief journey by rail.

The hideous district encircling the Newport Market Refuge in Soho, has been appropriately termed the "Robbers' Maze," for no one can get into it without confusion, or be free of it without considerable danger. The actual "Refuge," that supports under charity so many houseless and homeless lads, and trains them up to be band boys in the Army, or sailors in her Majesty's Navy, is in reality an old stable, of royal origin, that has been made habitable by means of paneling, whitewash, and paint; and here, as is not generally known, the downcast artisan, anxious to be free from the contamination of the casual ward, can get any night a supper and a lodging, and be enabled to get to his work in decent time in the morning. No labour is enforced that keeps the poor destitute fellow hanging about the yard until it is too late to get any employment, and I have been confidently informed that many a man has been saved from joining the huge and rapidly increasing mendicant army by this consistent and liberal form of charity. But admirable as may be the institution when you get to it through tortuous streets and avenues of costermongers' barrows, it is not encouraging to find that on venturing into the neighbourhood you may be robbed in open day, and half murdered as well if any attempt is made to pursue the thief. A more deplorable neighbour-

bhood does not exist in London than the mysterious colony between Bloomsbury and Charing-cross, Lincoln's-inn-fields, and the Strand, and the sooner it is Haussmannised the better for the metropolis. In the full glare of the gas-light, the other evening, a lady and gentleman hurrying from one of the theatres to get a cab by a short cut, were attacked by a gang of those forbidding-looking women who stand at the entrance to the courts, with their heads swathed in red woollen shawls. A crack on the funny bone induced the gentleman to drop his umbrella and opera-glass, which were speedily captured, and the fur cloak of the lady was nearly dragged off her neck by these furies of Great Wild-street. When they appealed to a baker's shop for protection, the answer was, "Help your lady, Sir! we dare not. Why, we supply them all with bread."

The discovery of new mineral springs abroad appears to be as profitable as the successful search after gold, coal, or diamonds. In England we neglect such natural advantages, permitting the chemical flow of water at Well Walk, Hampstead, to trickle unrecognised into a parish gutter; forgetting the advantages of Bath and Tunbridge Wells; ignoring the existence of Clifton Spa, under the suicidal Suspension Bridge; only partially remembering the *raison d'être* of Cheltenham; and occasionally visiting Scarborough without taking the trouble to descend to the "cool grottoes and mossy cells," where waters laden with health-giving properties gush out of the heart of the earth. Not so in Germany, where every dribble of iron-laden or potash-flavoured water, every evil-smelling and ugly-tasting stream, is instantly canonised by Royal decree and favour. Only recently a rival has been discovered to sunny, sweltering, relaxed and confined little Ems, the prettiest and dullest of the watering-places in the Rhine district, where the community seem to doze and dream like listless lotus-eaters, and where, on the parade by the side of the charming Lahm, the great Franco-Prussian war was settled as inevitable by the venerable Emperor of Germany. Since the roulette-tables were cleared out of Ems and silence reigned in her casinos and conversation-houses, the place has existed upon invalids and music, the only approach to activity being seen in occasional excursions up to the hill chalets in the enchanting woods on donkeys and ponies decorated with scarlet trappings. Nothing can detract from the charm of the situation of Ems, but it is rumoured that her nose will be put out of joint by Ober Lahmstein, the little village where the Rhine steamers touch, just opposite the Castle of Stoltzenfels; for a mineral spring has been discovered of great value, capable of curing every imaginable malady, and its birth has been signalled by the erection of a fountain and the commencement of watering-place hospitalities. Such is the energy of commerce, that in a short time we shall get the Ober Lahmstein spring bought up by a speculator, and bottled for the club smoking-room. By the way, what an extraordinary title for an effervescent or mineral drink is "Bilin Water"? In my ignorance I at first thought it was a quotation from Sam Weller, and had some close affinity to the article most particularly requisite for the manufacture of a good cup of tea. But it turns out that "Bilin" is a place with a mineral spring, and an attachment of invalids.

One of the most curious experiences connected with the Battle at Brighton was the military captive balloon that was sent down by the War Office authorities from Woolwich to Lewes as an experiment in the new art of scientific warfare. It was in charge of eminent officers of the Royal Engineers, who were authorised to report upon the battle at an altitude ranging from a quarter to half a mile. The morning mist on the downs interfered somewhat with the intended arrangements; but the balloon never deserted the Lewes force, waited patiently for the massing of the troops on Windmill-hill, and actually joined in the "march past" before the Duke of Cambridge. "But how was this managed?" everyone will ask. Well, the balloon of scientific inspection is attached by a wire rope to a wheeled carriage, and it is kept steady by guide ropes held by active sappers; so wherever the troops and guns can go the balloon can follow, and an admirable idea of the position of the enemy may be obtained thence, for it is almost a matter of impossibility to hit a balloon in the air. How astonished at this practical value of their invention would have been MM. Stephen and Joseph de Montgolfier, paper manufacturers of Lyons, who, in 1782, made the first balloon of paper and induced M. Pilatre de Rosier to risk his valuable neck in an ascent from Paris the year after. Poor fellow!—he was killed soon after in attempting to cross the Channel from Boulogne to England, for the balloon took fire when 3000 feet in the air, and down came everyone with a fatal crash. Twenty years ago—namely, in 1860—the Emperor of the French employed balloons during the Italian war for the purpose of reconnoitring the enemy, but they were not arranged on the "captive" system, so well known to all visitors to Paris. After the Duke of Cambridge, who had come down good-naturedly to the sham fight, the balloon was more applauded than anything else at Brighton.

While the Rev. J. M. Thompson, the pastor at Burntisland parish church, who was only inducted ten days ago, was preaching on Sunday, he suddenly fell back in the pulpit in a fainting condition, and died soon afterwards. Mr. Thompson was for twenty years chaplain in the army at Calcutta.

Owing to a most unfortunate combination of adverse circumstances, it has been impossible to carry out the programme arranged to welcome the leaders of the expedition through the North-East Passage. The banquet at which the Prince of Wales was to have presided was waiting in London, and various fêtes and entertainments were postponed from day to day; but as the Easter holidays drew near a public reception was out of the question, and the departure of her Majesty the Queen for the Continent precluded the possibility of her receiving the explorers. The Vega put into Falmouth on Thursday evening, and Professor Nordenskjöld took train and went to London. The following day Count Piper, the Swedish Ambassador, and Mr. Richter, and Mr. Kirschbaum, the Swedish Consul-General and Vice-Consul, who has been staying at Southsea, left for London to receive the Professor, who during his stay in London has been the guest of Mr. Clements Markham. Professor Nordenskjöld and Lieutenant Pallander arrived at Paddington late in the evening on Good Friday, and were entertained on Saturday by Mr. Clements Markham, C.B. On Sunday a luncheon was given in their honour by the Swedish Consul-General, and a dinner by Sir Allen Young. The Earl of Northbrook, President of the Royal Geographical Society, invited them to dine and sleep at Stratton on Monday, and on Tuesday morning a flying visit was paid to Winchester, the Professor being much interested in the Cathedral. Thence they proceeded to Coombe Bank, the residence of Mr. Spottiswoode, President of the Royal Society, and on their return to London they were entertained by Mr. Clements Markham at luncheon, and by the Swedish Minister, Count E. Piper, at dinner. Later in the evening the Scandinavian Club gave their twice postponed fête, for which several songs had been expressly composed.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

M. Ernest Renan has arrived in London, and is staying at Thomas's Hotel, Berkeley-square. The first of the Hibbert Lectures will be delivered on Tuesday next.

The Inter-University Racquet-matches were begun at Prince's on Tuesday, when the Cambridge men, who were great favourites, won the rubber by four games to love.

Mr. Edward Kennedy has, after twenty-eight years' arduous and successful service, resigned his position as secretary to the Early Closing Association. Mr. James A. Stacey, late assistant secretary, has been appointed his successor.

The marriage of the Rev. Newman Hall took place on Monday, the bride being Miss Knipe, of London, the lady to whom Mr. Hall admitted at the divorce trial that he had communicated an intention of marriage, subject to the success of his suit.

Mr. E. W. Roberts, a member of the Corporation, has sent 10,000 fish to stock the waters in Epping Forest, on condition that a proper close breeding season should be observed, and Sunday angling should not be prohibited. He has promised a further gift of 3000 or 4000 fish.

The number of paupers in the metropolis, exclusive of lunatics in asylums and 680 vagrants, on the last day of last week was 90,256, of whom 47,176 were in workhouses and 43,080 received outdoor relief. As compared with the corresponding period in each of the three preceding years, this total shows an increase of 2511, 5503, and 4570 respectively.

At the meeting of the Anthropological Institute on March 23 a paper was read by Mr. V. Ball on some remarkable "Nicobarese Ideographs," specimens of picture-writing in vermilion on a vegetable material, corresponding in style to that of the Bronze age. A paper was also read by Mr. Alfred Tylor on a New Method of Expressing the Law of Specific Changes and Typical Differences of Species and Genera in the Organic World, and especially on the Cause of the particular form of Man. He provisionally called the laws which seem to regulate the forms and decorations of Organised Beings "Emphasis" and "Symmetry;" and, besides many illustrative diagrams, referred to the structure of a Greek Temple.

A meeting of the central executive committee of the St. John Ambulance Association was held last week at St. John's Gate. It was reported that several new centres are in process of formation, among the latest being Dublin, which gives promise of great success. There have now been established seventy-seven centres in different parts of the United Kingdom, besides fifty-nine detached classes formed pending the institution of regular centres. In addition, numerous classes have been held for the benefit of the Metropolitan and City Police, London and provincial fire brigades, dock employés, &c.; and the Naval Artillery Volunteers are about to commence courses of lectures. The advanced classes at St. Mary's and Westminster Hospitals have undergone examination; and sixty-two ladies attending the former and forty-four men attending the latter have been awarded certificates. In connection with this association Dr. William Collingridge is giving a series of lectures at St. John's-gate, in the riverside district of Wapping, and elsewhere, the object of which is to afford the officials and others some practical knowledge on the immediate treatment of all kinds of street accidents.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

A paper on the land laws and industrial progress of this colony was read last week by Sir Arthur Blyth, K.C.M.G., Agent-General for South Australia, at a meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute—Mr. James Youl, C.M.G., in the absence of the Duke of Manchester, presiding.

The country was described as free from the vested interests and ancient customs encumbering older States, but it was shown that the colonial Legislature followed the rule stated by Macaulay to regulate the English Parliament—"Never to remove an anomaly because it is an anomaly, never to provide a remedy greater than the particular evil it is intended to correct or remove." Formerly land was sold by the Government on the principle of unconditional purchase, but now a system has been adopted allowing bonâ-fide farmers to become land-owners without the intervention of capitalists or jobbers. Measures have been taken which satisfactorily prevent dummies acting on behalf of large monopolists and which settle equitably between simultaneous applicants for the same particular settlements. The minimum price at which land is sold is £1 per acre; it is offered by auction; the purchaser covenants to make permanent improvements and have one fifth under cultivation; the purchase price is payable in instalments extending over ten years; Government does not sell more than 1000 acres to one person, and the transfer or assignation of a holding must receive its consent. These enactments have in Sir Arthur Blyth's opinion been most successful, and have greatly promoted the welfare of the colony.

The past harvest averaged fourteen bushels per acre, and the value of the cereal export will approach four millions sterling. This average, it was mentioned, is high for a new country, that of the United States being thirteen bushels to the acre, and that of all Australia ten bushels to the acre.

Several seaports have been planted on the two great gulfs which go far to make up the want of navigable rivers.

Within the last three years very much has been done for education, and 20,000 acres of land are now devoted annually by the Government for a permanent education endowment.

The superiority of South Australia for grape cultivation was alluded to, and it was to be expected, it was said, that a modification of the British tariff would materially benefit both the colony and the mother country.

Difficulties in arranging for the transport abroad of the surplus crops have been removed by the construction of the transcontinental telegraph at a cost of £400,000, the honour of erecting which belongs to South Australia. Five hundred miles of railway have been built. Much of it is narrow gauge, and this less expensive line was thought peculiarly suitable for the country. The Government, who are the owners, do not make the return of the interest the primary consideration in working the railways, being more anxious that they should lead to the development of the wealth of the province.

It was mentioned that South Australian wheat is the best in the world, Hungarian being the only grain approaching it, and the paper concluded by detailing statistics of the area and progress of the colony.

The Hon. C. B. Young; Sir James Ferguson, Governor of Bombay; Sir Richard Strangways, ex-Prime Minister of South Australia, and others took part in the discussion which followed. The system of selling land was generally commended, and one speaker affirmed that it had neither depreciated the value of property nor interfered with the prosperity of the lawyers. The advantage of the Government building railways as means of developing the country rather than as paying investments was illustrated by the case of one railway which did not pay its working expenses, but which soon led to the sale of land of greater value than the capital expended in its construction.

A GERMAN LIFE OF LORD BEACONSFIELD.

The story is well known of a German artist who was employed to paint a camel; how, instead of making sketches at the Zoological Gardens, or in Egypt, he sat down and "developed the subject out of his internal consciousness." We shall not say that this has been the method of Dr. Brandes, whose book, entitled *Lord Beaconsfield: A Study*, is translated by Mrs. George Sturge, and published by Mr. Bentley. This German critical biographer has, at least, made an actual examination of Disraeli's novels and romances. But we doubt whether anyone can find the real man, or the eminent politician, in those entertaining flights of imaginative humour and fancy. It has always seemed to us that this was an unfair presumption, and unjust to the moral character of their gifted author. How many hostile censors have sought to fasten upon him, personally, the unscrupulous determination of "Vivian Grey" to rise in the world by the arts of an intriguing sycophant! As well might Sir Walter Scott be accused of the fraud and treason ascribed to Marmion, or the crimes of Manfred and Lara be laid to the charge of Lord Byron. Mr. Disraeli, to speak of him as he was then called, wrote all his fictitious tales for literary fame or profit, trying to amuse and surprise the largest circle of thoughtless readers. He had, we suppose, no more idea of self-portraiture than his contemporary Lytton Bulwer had in composing "Paul Clifford," or "Pelham," or "Eugene Aram." We therefore object, at the threshold, to this German critic's scheme of detecting Lord Beaconsfield's true motives and principles of action by the analysis of his story-telling conceptions. These are, in our estimation, wonderfully clever nonsense from beginning to end, from "Vivian Grey" to "Lothair," fully deserving of their success as mere pieces of literary diversion, satirical burlesques, or mock-heroic extravaganzas of the highest merit. They contain, we believe, not a sentence that was meant by their writer to be taken seriously, whether speaking of morality, politics, religion, or social life.

His real character, private and public, is likely to be very different from that of any fictitious heroes of those very clever stories; for he is not a man to "wear his heart upon his sleeve for daws to peck at." Dr. Brandes has only partly apprehended the life of Disraeli, and has fallen into some errors of fact, pardonable in a German who knows little of England. But he should not take scenes of an imaginary schoolboy life from "Vivian Grey" and "Contarini Fleming," and infer that the same experiences were suffered by young Benjamin Disraeli, as we are here told, "in an English school in 1820." There are credible persons still living who can bear witness to the real facts. It was not "a private school at Winchester" that Disraeli was placed at. His well-known free-thinking father, disapproving of the doctrines of the Church of England, chose to put him as a boarder in the house of a learned Unitarian minister, the Rev. Edward Cogan, of Walthamstow. The assistant master there was the late Rev. Henry Acton, of Exeter. That a boy of Jewish race was, on account of his birth, cruelly persecuted in this little private school, and insulted by the "usher" or by "a tyrannical teacher" with an epithet reflecting on his alien nationality, is absolutely false and utterly impossible. In justice to the character of respectable, though long since forgotten, instructors of youth, Dr. Brandes ought to be checked when he gratuitously gives currency to such myths as these. That the "usher" in what Dr. Brandes fancies "a Christian school of the old-fashioned sort," took a prejudice and dislike to "the cleverest and most original boy in the school," and appealed to the vulgar hatred of race by denouncing him to the other boys as "a seditious stranger," is the wildest fable. It is mere "Vivian Grey," not the actual life of Benjamin Disraeli. The manner in which the injured boy contrives to revenge himself, afterwards, both on his comrades and on his teacher, is neither more nor less apocryphal. But it is a fact that, upon one occasion, the precocious young sophist, having to write a school theme, and being authorised to choose an argument of moral philosophy, startled his masters and friends when he stood up to read it before the company at the half-yearly examination. It was an elaborate vindication of every man's right to kill any other man who had done him a deadly wrong. This principle is wrought out, as Dr. Brandes observes, in the terrific schoolboy fight described in "Contarini Fleming." Lord Beaconsfield, a kind-hearted gentleman as ever lived, might smile at such reminiscences of puerile freakishness. But he would certainly acquit his tutors of sixty years ago, who were sincere Liberals in their unassuming way, of having ever despised his Jewish birth.

We pass on, however, to consider what is here said of Mr. Disraeli's "youthful ambition." The desire of fame and of power, which moralists do not in general much blame, may have become his ruling passion at an early age. His biographer is entitled to look at the circumstances of family, education, and private fortune, in which he may then have found himself, with a view to the legitimate satisfaction of that impulse. But it is a subject that ought to be handled with more delicacy and discretion. When such matters are discussed by a foreign writer in his own language, the effect is not so jarring upon our sense of propriety and good taste; it is rather like talking of the private affairs of people who lived in another age. Brought home to us in an English translation, we find it disagreeable. Mr. Disraeli was the son of a gentleman of independent property, who had renounced the Judaic religious communion, and who occupied himself with literary and historical studies. That is all that the world need care to remember about his original position in society. It is, in this country, somewhat of an impertinence to speculate upon the questions whether a gentleman had always plenty of money, where he was invited to dinners or evening parties, or if he could pay his debts for electioneering costs, or if he ever gambled. Dr. Brandes, evidently, knows nothing of these particulars, and we should not thank him for telling us, if he did. The trivialities of a velvet coat with white silk facings, and an ivory gold-headed cane, if Mr. Disraeli ever chose to display that fashionable costume of the day, are comparatively harmless to mention.

With reference, indeed, to his opportunities at starting in life fifty years ago, for winning fame and power, it must be admitted that he had a fair chance of doing so by the exercise of his literary talents. There could be no prejudice against a novelist, satirist, or poet of manifest genius, on the score of his Jewish birth. Mr. Disraeli, however, as the German biographer has discerned, would not content himself with the merely intellectual eminence of a successful author. He craved the prize of political ambition, the proud social distinction of a ruler and manager of his fellow-citizens. It is very true that, fifty years since in our country, it might have seemed impossible for the ablest of men, in his position, to acquire such a mastery of English Parliamentary influence. There is a tide in the affairs of mankind, by which, adroitly used, the dreams of individual ambition may sometimes be fulfilled. Apart from the conflicting interests of parties, nobody should be disposed to grudge Lord Beaconsfield his splendidfeat of self-exaltation, unless it appeared that the country was injured. The merits of his public acts, or the acts of those whom he decried, opposed, and now and then supplanted, may be

differently regarded by one and another school of opinion. His personality as a living statesman is as fairly entitled to respectful consideration as if he had been born in our hereditary aristocracy, claiming a ready access to the governing power. Liberals, at least of late years, have felt this remarkable example to be a sign in favour of one of their characteristic principles, *La carrière ouverte aux talents*. It is a triumph over the prejudiced exclusiveness of race and caste and religious or ecclesiastical bigotry. Mr. Disraeli, in fighting his own battle, helped to gain the victory for that ancient and interesting nationality, of which he could never be ashamed. He might easily have changed his Jewish name, either upon the occasion of his marriage to an English lady, or at some period before or after, but he would never desert the race of Israel. This is greatly to his honour, since we cannot but think, looking back half a century, and remembering the former condition of social sentiment, that it would have smoothed his path to preferment.

The German writer, it need hardly be observed, is unable to add to our previous information concerning Mr. Disraeli's first attempts to get a seat in the House of Commons, and his first abortive performances when he had got in there. That he was a Radical candidate for High Wycombe in 1832, under the patronage of Daniel O'Connell, and presented himself again to that constituency, as well as to Marylebone and Taunton; that he wrote political tracts and pamphlets, latterly affecting an imitation of Bolingbroke and an admiration of that flashy trickster's ideas of policy; that, having quarrelled with the Reform party, and exchanged personal insults with O'Connell, he went over to the Tories; and that he became M.P. for Maidstone in 1837 are matters of history notorious to all. Those equivocal public adventures were his political "wild oats," of which every man has some, be they more or less, who regards the world as his oyster, to be opened with the tongue or the pen. Dr. Brandes is not disposed to be too severe upon this portion of Mr. Disraeli's career, and we are never much tempted to dwell upon it. There is a queer incongruity between such incidents and the sublimely romantic visions of Oriental glory and mystery supposed to have taken possession of Disraeli's mind in his Eastern tour, just before the Reform Bill. One reads with a smile of sceptical toleration, at the present day, all that series of fantastic dissolving views, "The Wondrous Tale of Alroy," and "Tancred; or, the New Crusade," in which an ingenious literary costumeshifter and stage manager presents scenes of operatic vivacity in the coloured light of theatrical illusion. But many sober Christians, it is to be observed, scarcely like the crude familiarity of the author's frequent rhetorical allusions to sacred history, and to the hallowed objects of their faith. They will do well to skip Dr. Brandes' dissertations or amplifications of these peculiar themes, wherever the Syrian and "Asian" concerns of Mr. Disraeli's fancy are mentioned. In the way of purely literary criticism, however, Dr. Brandes shows much insight, and a refined perception of ideal tendencies. His notices of "Venetia" and "Henrietta Temple," the best creations of their author in the department of imaginative romance, are worthy of attention. Disraeli, if he had not been an aspiring, practical man of the world, was capable of poetic and sentimental dreams more consistently sustained than appears in his mixtures of high-flown rhetoric with grotesque absurdity. His mind was imbued with a certain tinge of Byronism and Shelleyism, and with a strong taste for melodramatic adventure, plot, and conspiracy in the movements of fiction. "The Revolutionary Epic," which appeared in 1834, might have been utterly forgotten but for the quotation, some time ago, of its inconsiderate eulogy of assassins who have killed tyrants. When Mr. Disraeli was charged with having written in this mischievous strain, he coolly published a new edition in which the obnoxious lines were struck out. But no notice of their omission was given to the general reader.

In two of his novels, "Coningsby" and "Sybil," published in 1844 and 1845, Mr. Disraeli is thought to have sketched the growth of what was then called, foolishly enough, "the Young England party," to which he attached himself, escaping thereby from an impotent isolation in the House of Commons. He had recently acquired a more assured social position by his marriage with Mrs. Wyndham Lewis, widow of his former colleague in the representation of Maidstone. To persons now middle-aged, who read "Coningsby" and "Sybil" thirty-five years ago, and who have watched the course of our political and social history, it is a curious retrospective crowd of associations that these faded names recall. Everything has turned out so completely different, so entirely opposite to what the author of those books predicted! and the realities of that period were so grossly misconceived by him! No pretensions to prophetic sagacity were ever more conspicuously falsified by a vast series of succeeding facts, in all the affairs of Great Britain and of Europe, from that day to this; and the first and perhaps mightiest of these facts, dating from 1846, was the Free Trade policy, to which Mr. Disraeli became the bitterest opponent. We in England, of course, know a good deal more about all this than Dr. Brandes in Germany can know; and those of us who were, at that time, old enough to understand what was going on, will not forget it to the end of our lives. Young England party, forsooth! Had the Corn Laws not been repealed, where would Young or Old England be now? The factory workpeople in "Sybil,"

the great industrial establishment of Mr. Millbank at Manchester, in "Coningsby;" also the great territorial property of the lords described in those novels, the funded riches and banking omnipotence of Sidonia, all the wealth of this nation and its domestic comfort, have been not only preserved but vastly augmented by the Free Trade policy. Yet it was by furious tirades against that policy, and by shooting envenomed sarcasms at the character of Sir Robert Peel, that Mr. Disraeli made himself leader of the English Conservative party. His personal victory in the contest of self-advancement, let us repeat, is not to be grudged him, but the true interests of his country were not rightly consulted in the line of action he pursued.

These and subsequent matters of political history are treated by Dr. Brandes, in the volume under notice, with a tolerable degree of general accuracy. But even a shrewd and diligent foreign student of English home affairs cannot avoid some mistakes; and in our estimation his impressions, on the whole, have little value. The episode of the removal of Jewish Disabilities, upon which Mr. Disraeli, taking a manly and worthy part, differed with his Conservative friends, is related in due place. It is not, indeed, just or right to speak of "the fanatical and unscrupulous Lord George Bentinck." From the death, in 1818, of that distinguished member of the party, who deserves to be better spoken of, Mr. Disraeli became its acknowledged leader in the House of Commons, being then a county member. As we would avoid, in this notice of a book, entering into controversy respecting the character of his past or present Administrations, chapter XVIII. and those which follow shall be left by us without comment. As Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1852, again in 1858 and 1859, and from 1866 to 1868 under the late Lord Derby, as Premier in 1868, and latterly since 1874, the present Lord Beaconsfield has enjoyed his share of high official power. In the intervals, his conduct of Parliamentary opposition has

been usually characterised, as we will be ready to testify, not only by consummate ability, but also by loyalty and fairness. His recent course of Government is just now put upon its trial before the electoral jury of the nation, whose verdict will not be delayed many days.

The personal and the political ingredients of Dr. Brandes' volume are of less value to an English reader than the literary discussions. It would, however, scarcely have seemed worth while to write or translate a book of mere criticism upon superficial and ephemeral works of fancy, such as Lord Beaconsfield's novels, which will never be read after his lifetime. Whoever is hoaxed into seeking for a key to the Eastern Question in "Tancred," or the Papal Question in "Lothair," may be consoled by the amusement he will find in those capital jokes of political mystification. That a German should take them in earnest, is rather good; especially at this crisis of Berlin diplomatic flirtations.

NEW BOOKS.

Melancholy reflections mingle themselves with the anticipations of pleasure awakened upon taking up the third and fourth volumes of *Royal Windsor*: by William Hepworth Dixon (Hurst and Blackett); for it was in the very act, as it were, of correcting his proofs that the accomplished author was overtaken by the sleep that knows no waking. He had accomplished his work, however, to all intents and purposes; he had brought his interesting collection of historical and, at the same time, romantic sketches, having Windsor Castle in their foreground, down to the date of that lamentable event which was destined to cast a shadow for ever over the Sovereign's life. The author, then, may be considered to have completed his task, although his hand was cold before it could give the finishing touch to the last volume. It is not probable, however, that so careful and practised a collector and writer would have had much to amend; his style, upon which it were useless and graceless to dwell now, had become too confirmed for alteration, and his style, with its tricks of affectation, was his chief, if not his only, weakness. The third volume begins with the picture of Henry VII.'s triumphal entry in March, 1485, into St. George's Hall; and the fourth volume ends with a few brief remarks upon the domestic joys and sorrows of the present Royal family. Intermediate there are, of course, descriptions of such persons and scenes as the scope of the author's work enabled him to treat with more minuteness and picturesqueness than a comprehensive history would have given him an opportunity of employing. Indeed, it may be said that to properly appreciate and enjoy his pages it is necessary to approach the perusal of them with a tolerably familiar knowledge of not only the greater but also the lesser personages who have from time to time assisted in making English history. For instance, it is not everybody who at a moment's notice could recall the connection between Marco Antonio, Archbishop of Spalatro and James I., or remember, either how that ecclesiastic became associated with the affairs of Windsor Castle, or how he contributed in his small way to what has been called the "divine catastrophe" of the House of Stuart. The fourth volume, however, contains a pretty full account of Marco Antonio, his origin, his early career, his passage from Venice to Windsor, his naturalisation in England, his occupancy of the Dean's house at Windsor, his position as the King's "Councillor in Church affairs," and his agency in securing the "divine succession" and "founding a new bench of Bishops" by the laying on of his by no means clean, however apostolic, hands. The inexhaustible subject of Shakespeare and his plays, especially the "Merry Wives of Windsor," gave the author material for three short but very entertaining, suggestive, and possibly instructive chapters. Of Surrey, too, gallant knight and glorious poet, who was "to have his arms set up in St. George's choir, to suffer harsh imprisonment in the Norman tower, and found at Windsor Castle a national School of Song," there was naturally much to be related; and the opportunity has been turned to great advantage. In this portion of the book a curious light appears to be thrown, although the author does not draw attention to the illustration, upon the derivation of a certain popular, not to say vulgar, expression. Surrey was called up to Windsor to be the companion of Henry VIII.'s illegitimate son, Richmond. Now, Richmond was born at what had once been a prior's house, called "Jericho, in the Essex flats," whether the bluff King rode so often, in quest, it was supposed, of a certain handsome Elizabeth Blount, mother of the said Richmond, that the courtiers, whenever they missed their Royal master, would whisper one to another, "Gone to Jericho." Hence, it would seem, the common saying, which, as frequently happens in similar cases, has come to be used in a sense widely different from that originally intended. This is a question, however, to be discussed by those whom it may concern; it has little to do with the interest of the two volumes, laden as they are with far more important information and reminiscences, such as everyone who pays a visit to Windsor Castle and Windsor Park will do well to study and bear in mind, if the visit is to produce some more solid delight than the impressions of mere unintelligent curiosity.

All 10s. gun licenses expire on Wednesday, and licenses to kill game expire on Monday next.

The half-yearly meeting of the North British Railway Company was held in Edinburgh on Tuesday. The report proposed that £120,000 be laid aside to cover the loss by the Tay Bridge disaster. The report was adopted after considerable discussion.

The stage-coaching season was begun on Tuesday, when the London and Brighton ran its first journey, driven by Captain Blyth, and making a route through Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells into Sussex. The Dorking and Boxhill coach also ran into Surrey and returned; and a coach between London and Virginia Water was on the road.

An examination for cadetships at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, will take place at the University of London on Monday, July 5, and following days, the first day being devoted to the medical examination of the candidates. There will be 108 cadetships to be competed for, of which eight will be for candidates for West India regiments. Twelve cadetships will also be offered for competition by University candidates. The successful competitors will be required to join the college as gentlemen cadets on Sept. 1.

The fine weather on Good Friday drew many people into the country, and the tram-cars, omnibuses, railways, and steamers were all crowded. The parks and open spaces around London were full of visitors, and large numbers of persons went to the Crystal and Alexandra Palaces, where selections of sacred music were performed. The services at St. Paul's, Westminster Abbey, and the churches of the metropolis were well attended. Dean Stanley preached at the Chapel Royal in the morning, and in the afternoon at the Abbey.



THE MONTHS: APRIL.—SEE PAGE 325.

ELECTION SKETCHES.

SEE PAGE 316.



UNCONVINCED.



ARGUMENT.

THE MONTHS: APRIL.

Like some fair coquette who, fully conscious of her charms, beguiles us one minute with smiles and gracious words, but the next is coy and distant, April is at once one of the sweetest and the most tantalising of our months. Now, with her lap full of flowers, and above her the birds carolling everywhere, she comes tripping over the springing meadows, captivating us with her bright smiles and fresh loveliness; but anon her smiles vanish, and, drawing her veil about her, she becomes cold and disdainful, or, archly tossing her head at our too great love for her, turns perhaps her back upon us altogether—only, however, to come back to-morrow, with smiles more radiant than before, and tears of gentle remorse glistening in her eyes. April, thy name is fickleness! Yet, with all thy faults we love thee, and thy smiles and tears and rainbows.

The season which pastoral poets of every age have loved to tune their lyres to has really come at last. The budding renaissance of the earth and the rapturous melody that fills the groves tell us in unmistakable language that it is Spring. The gales of the month just defunct have subsided into softest zephyrs; and, though the white clouds have a decided tendency to drop their moisture upon the earth, the rains are of the mildest description—ofttimes mere showers, that are scarcely over when the sun emerges from behind the scattered cloudlets, and pours down his grateful warmth upon budding trees and hedgerows, and upon verdant meads and grassy lane-sides, that look fresher and greener after each of the "April showers."

Now daisies pied, and violets blue,
And lady-smocks all silver white,
And cuckoo-buds of yellow hue
Do paint the meadows with delight.

The sweet wild flowers of April, what tender chords they touch in every breast, what reminiscences of childhood and of gentle and holy aspirations! On the banks of a thousand purling brooks, in dewy glades and shady pastures, and nestling under hosts of our English hedges, that darling of the spring, the primrose, is now found in lavish profusion breathing forth its tender fragrance; but perhaps the most charming of its many haunts is in the outskirts of our woodlands, where its pale hues are thrown into pleasant contrast by the deep rich purple of the violets that are there scenting the voluptuous air. And amidst the wealth of verdure that clothes the meadows, those cousins of the primroses, the cowslips, are growing in many places thick as buttercups in June—nodding every now and then with each little puff of air, and ringing out elfin chimes to the Ariels that come and lie in their daintily perfumed bolls. And while primroses and violets are encircling their margins, the woods inside are full



THE PAID CANVASSER.



THE IRISH VOTE.

of anemones, whose pendant white blossoms are rising in chaste purity from their triple circlets of leaves, overjoyed no doubt that the great limbs of the trees above them, erst so naked and chill, are at last putting on a delicate fringe of green. And the drooping bells of the blue-bell hyacinth are now wafting delicious odours in the shady spots they love to bloom in, on sheltered banks, by rippling rills, and in secluded groves. Primroses, blue-bells, violets, and wood-anemones are the well-known favourites of the month; but the meadows are also decked with the splendid purple of the early orchids, and the rose-coloured flowers of the louseworts; and on nearly every lane-side the arum is sending up its handsome spathes amid its dark green spotted leaves. In moist lands, too, we have the marsh-marigold, the white water ranunculus, and the "wan-hued" lady's smock, with its pale lilac flowers—perhaps better known as the cuckoo-flower.

The last named little wildling reminds us that there is another joyous feature of the month. The bird-world is in the very height of its "season." The monotonous but welcome twofold shout of the cuckoo proclaims far and near that warm weather is coming and that it is now perfectly safe for the stay-at-homes, as well as the feathered hordes that have lately arrived, like the cuckoo himself, from the sunny south, to cease their love-making, and begin matrimonial life in earnest. What a thrill of ecstasy the first call of the cuckoo sends through us! for we know the blithe new-comer never sends forth that wondrous call of his until he has quite gauged the weather prospects. How we stand with bated breath to listen for a repetition of that strange loud cry that "fills the whole air's space, as loud far off as near!" We listen for his call, but himself we never, or very rarely, see—

O cuckoo! shall I call thee bird,
Or but a wandering voice?

For let us search the woods through and through, or wander across the meadows and down secluded lanes, or steal along the banks of the most shaded streams, it is always the same—he remains ever "a hope, a love—still longed for, never seen."

No bird, but an invisible thing—
A voice, a mystery.

Fain would we, for the love we bear him, forget the serious charges that have been laid against him. Surely it cannot be that he sucks little birds' eggs to make that voice of his so wondrous clear; and as for the other charges, we can only say that, personally, we have never yet seen the sparrow's, or wagtail's, or yellow-hammer's nest that contained a cuckoo's egg; and, after all, the little foster-mothers do not seem to be aware—so we are told—that the young cuckoos they brood are other than their own offspring.

Most of our birds of passage that pass their winter in southern climes have now arrived in our islands. Early in the month come the swallows—first the red-breasted chimney-swallow, then the white-breasted house-martin, next the little sand-martin, and last the swift, the largest of all the swallows, whose powerful pinions, says Stanley, enable him to accomplish his splendid flights at the rate of 180 miles per hour. The other summer birds of passage that arrive in April have been observed to make their appearance in the following order: the ring-ousel, redstart, yellow wren, whitethroat, grasshopper lark, and willow-wren. The diminutive wryneck regularly arrives just a few days before the cuckoo, which latter bird does not sound his welcome voice immediately he comes; but when that voice of his does break forth, it seems to be the signal for the whole of the feathered race—the newcomers as well as those who do not forsake us in the winter—to begin their sweet jargonings of joy and love; for, says our poet of the Seasons, "All this waste of music is the voice of love." Every wood and copse and dingle resounds with their melody. And how busy the little creatures are withal, building those wonderful nests of theirs that man, with all his boasted ingenuity, finds it impossible to imitate.

Sportsmen must now forego the grand excitement of the chase, and exchange their red coats for plain tweeds, and their riding-whips for fishing-rods—that is, those of the Nimrods who can endure the comparative inertia of the gentle craft. Early in the month the flat-bottomed boats of Richmond, Twickenham, and other piscatorial haunts are out for the benefit of the patient punters who have a fancy for barbel and dace: while those lovers of the rod who don't see the fun of sitting the livelong day in a not-very-comfortable chair, and who, moreover, have visions of salmon and trout, are off with their treacherous flies and landing-nets to the romantic waters of the Spey and Tweed, and to the pools of Wales.

THE LIFE OF THE PRINCE CONSORT.

Some time perhaps in the twentieth century, for aught we can predict, a citizen of the United States of Australia may visit London, and stroll westward along the Hyde Park railing to Kensington. He may there see a huge round building called the Royal Albert Hall, and opposite this, on his right hand, a superb and lofty monumental structure, with much gilding, mosaic, and white marble sculpture, enshrining the seated statue of a gentleman. From admiring the Albert Memorial, though its splendid ornamentation will have been tarnished by time, he may be led to study the personal history and character of Queen Victoria's estimable Prince Consort. This information will be found in five volumes likely to be kept on the shelves of every good library, published by Messrs. Smith, Elder, and Co., under her Majesty's sanction. The author, Sir Theodore Martin, K.C.B., will be noted as a literary man of some accomplishment in the Victorian age, to whom this task was intrusted by her Majesty, and who earned the reward of a knighthood on its completion in March, 1880. We have just read the concluding fifth volume, of which it is our desire to speak with due appreciation, and with the sincere respect we feel both for the lamented Prince who died eighteen years ago, and for the womanly and wifely sorrow of our beloved Queen.

Prince Albert, as the English people have always liked best to call him, was already so well known to us who were his contemporaries, that we have not been taught by Sir Theodore Martin to think more highly of his worth than before. That he was a soundly good man, in all private and public relations of his life, one of perfect integrity, fidelity, and rectitude, an affectionate husband and father, a constant friend, punctual, methodical, and diligent in the laborious duties of his station, is what everybody has always said. It might be said with truth that he was a singularly unselfish man, devoting his whole mind to the service of others; and that he was endowed, in no small measure, with the Christian quality of "wisdom that cometh from above, that is first pure, then peaceable and gentle, without partiality and without hypocrisy." This country is greatly indebted to him for having made the Queen happy, and for the help that he gave her in many important affairs of business, as well as for being the kind and judicious parent of her sons and daughters, in whose welfare and good conduct, as they are public personages, the nation has a large interest. More than all this just praise of his character and behaviour will scarcely be expected or desired. History may not, after turning over the five volumes of his biography, find wherewithal to prove him an extraordinary genius. There is good common-sense and

right feeling in his opinions, sentiments, and actions, but no special gift of inspiration. His sagacity was not infallible, nor his sympathies always open and impartial. His political views were limited by the education and social traditions of his rank and family as a German Prince. They failed to comprehend the most valuable ideas of English statesmanship in the present age. Throughout the discussions and comments which take up a large part of these volumes, referring to public questions of the day, we frequently observe that the Prince could not understand what was clear enough to leading English politicians. But he never, in any instance, attempted to transgress the proper Constitutional limits, of which he was accurately informed, to the exercise of his own influence as a confidential counsellor of the Sovereign. Even when Lord Palmerston objected to his presence in her interviews with the Ministers of State, it was acknowledged that the Prince had not sought to force his views upon the Government, whose responsibility and authority were fully regarded by him, as well as by their Royal Mistress.

The Queen and the Prince were deeply interested in the foreign affairs of 1860, with which year the narrative comprised in this volume begins, and which was the year of the Italian revolutions consequent on the Treaty of Villafranca and the fall of the Ducal and Pontifical Governments in Central Italy. Prince Albert had rather approved of the Italian movement, so far as it consisted of a pacific demand for constitutional governments following the lead of the Kingdom of Victor Emmanuel in Piedmont. He would not have objected even to the incorporation of Parma and Modena, Tuscany, and the Romagna, with the North Italian Kingdom created by the cession of Lombardy to Piedmont or Sardinia in 1859. But this result, though earnestly desired and demanded by the spontaneous votes of the Italian populations, required the assent of the Emperor Napoleon III., who still kept a division of his army in that country. Lord Palmerston and Lord Russell, then Prime Minister and Secretary of Foreign Affairs in England, were disposed to support the French Emperor and King Victor Emmanuel, in any settlement of Italy they could agree to make, against the risk of Austrian or European intervention. But it soon came out that Napoleon III. would insist on the price of his aid to the new Italian Kingdom. The King of Sardinia and his Minister, Count Cavour, had promised in 1858 to cede to France the provinces of Savoy and Nice, in the event of the aggrandisement of the Subalpine Kingdom by conquests with the help of a French army. It cannot be denied that both Napoleon III. and Cavour were guilty of deception, and of some verbal equivocation, in their attempts to conceal the existence of this compact. Yet the outcry that was raised against the transaction, as an infringement of general European rights and interests, was altogether ungrounded and absurd. The population of Savoy, being far more inclined to be French than Italian, welcomed the change as a deliverance from the prospect of connection with the new, strange, and insecure kingdom of Italy. In North Germany, however, and thereby also in England, as is shown by the Prince Consort's correspondence with his Prussian and Saxon friends, the cession of Savoy to France was regarded with great alarm. They considered it a prelude to French demands on the German territory of the Rhine, and to a war like that commenced by the Emperor Napoleon in 1870, which had such a different result from what he intended. The excitement that arose upon the occasion in 1860 was intense. Lords Palmerston and John Russell found it convenient to talk in the same high tone. There were indignant speeches in both Houses of Parliament. But this volume shows that the Prince Consort and her Majesty were not less vehemently exercised in mind by that Savoy and Nice business; and the Queen even complained of having been "duped" by her Imperial ally.

"We have been made regular dupes," says her Majesty, writing to Lord John Russell on Feb. 5, 1860; "which the Queen apprehended, and warned against, all along. The return to an English alliance, universal peace, respect for treaties, commercial fraternity, &c., were the blinds to cover, before Europe, a policy of spoliation." The Queen went on to point out symptoms of "bad faith," as she called it, in the French proposals for the settlement of Central Italy.

Now, it was very natural that her Majesty and the Prince, two of the most candid and ingenuous persons that ever lived, should feel some disgust at the Emperor Napoleon's detected practice of dissimulation, in this and other instances. They had already, in the peace negotiations of 1856, after the capture of Sebastopol, found great fault with his inconstancy as a diplomatic and military partner. They had been almost frightened by his naval preparations and fortifications of Cherbourg in 1858, of which the Queen's private journal, quoted in Sir Theodore Martin's fourth volume, speaks in language not so calm and composed as befitted the Sovereign of this country. But such a revulsion of feeling was strangely contrasted with the gushing confidences of 1855, when the Emperor and Empress, in the mutual exchange of friendly visits at Paris and in England, exercised their talents of personal fascination upon our Royal family with extraordinary success. It was but too evident that the Prince Consort and her Majesty had suffered themselves to be deceived in the character of the notable personage with whom they had to deal. The British Government and the nation were misled by the highest example, joined to that of Lord Palmerston's unhesitating confidence, when they entered into an active alliance with France for the Crimean War, in which Louis Napoleon, as a *parvenu* monarch, sought the profit of his own dynastic ambition. We must not forget the lesson of this historical experience, which is more and more confirmed by every fresh revelation of the sentiments really entertained by our Court and leading statesmen after the conclusion of the war against Russia. It should ever be a warning not rashly to commit ourselves to joint action with any of the great Continental Empires. Whether it be a Napoleon or a Bismarck, a Czar Alexander, or a Hapsburg Kaiser that tempts England into an implied engagement of undefined responsibility for measures alleged to be in the common interest of Europe, there is always much danger in too readily accepting such overtures. As Lord Hartington remarked the other day, "A special and close alliance with one or two European Powers must, in their present state, mean one directed against certain other European Powers." This is what came to be felt, in 1860, so strongly as to oblige her Majesty's Government to put an end to their French alliance. If we had then formed a Prussian alliance instead of it, what would have become of that in 1861, when Prussia invaded the Schleswig-Holstein provinces of Denmark? It was the same thing with the use made by Austria, in Italy and elsewhere after the Congress of Vienna, of the strength she had gained by English support and favour in 1815. Hence, the moral of our past foreign policy is, that we should bestow implicit trust upon none of these rulers or Ministers of the chief States on the Continent of Europe.

We cannot, indeed, read without sorrow, in the volume before us, such passages from the Queen's letters as that of March 20 in the same year, expressing her "fear that it will not be long before the union of Europe, for her safety against a common enemy, may become a painful necessity." These distressing apprehensions of danger from

France were not borne out afterwards by the Emperor's next military enterprise, which was the unsuccessful intervention in Mexico. His martial performances, even in the campaign of Lombardy, had scarcely been of such masterly and irresistible completeness, that all Europe should be afraid of him. In 1860, we have reason to know, France and Austria were equally indisposed to do any more fighting with each other. Nor had King Victor Emmanuel, or Count Cavour, or even Garibaldi, the least intention at that time of attacking the Austrian Quadrilateral for the conquest of Venetia, which they felt to be utterly beyond their power. The alarm, in short, was groundless; and the importance of the cession of Savoy was much exaggerated in English opinion. It had the unhappy effect of rousing international jealousies, checking the generous sympathies of Englishmen with the cause of Italian freedom, and half spoiling the gratification that was justly occasioned here by Mr. Cobden's negotiation of the French commercial treaty. We regret to find that the Prince Consort looked with no favour or complacency on that negotiation, which was inspired by the love of peace and goodwill amongst nations, as well as by the principles of free trade. His mind should have been superior to the futile and unworthy objection, which he imbibed from somebody else, that the Commercial Treaty would allow the French to procure our iron and coal, and they might use those materials in war against us. But really, at that moment, Lord Palmerston himself, the Prime Minister of a Government which had just concluded the French Treaty—the man who had, before all others, made himself sponsor for Napoleon III.'s good intentions, and had introduced him to the concert of European Sovereigns—was playing a "Jingo" part. There is an amazing report, in his own letter to the Queen, of the talk he had one day with the Comte de Flahault, the French Ambassador, somewhat offensively alluding to the battles of Blenheim and Waterloo, and intimating that he felt pretty sure that English soldiers could beat the French now as they had done before. We could never have imagined that great Ministers of State and the Ambassadors of great Empires, in this civilized age, were capable of this style of conversation. It is impossible to suppose that the Queen or the Prince Consort, with their fine sense of dignity and propriety, could approve of Lord Palmerston's talking in this manner to the official representative of France.

But the Premier, being a wilful and self-confident statesman, and having got the whip hand of his more pacific colleagues, drove the chariot of "Jingo" pretensions, as we should now say, all the more briskly. Mr. Gladstone, his Chancellor of the Exchequer, did not like its perilous pace. Their differences of opinion, especially with regard to the votes of very large sums for the proposed fortifications, and the repeal of the paper duty in Mr. Gladstone's Budget scheme of 1860, were much noticed by the Prince Consort. Here, again, we find that his Royal Highness, and probably her Majesty also, disagreed with the views of advanced Liberalism, if Gladstone, Bright, and Cobden might be regarded as its exponents. The Prime Minister, with the majority of his Cabinet, held the opinions of the Court, and Mr. Gladstone was reluctantly obliged to acquiesce in their decisions. Lord Palmerston now and then indulged in a sarcastic spirit at the expense of his Chancellor of the Exchequer, which did not escape the notice of the Prince or of the Queen. All this characteristic by-play among the eminent and responsible politicians of that period is a curious subject of study. We cannot, however, dwell much longer upon it; but the reader may learn something of it from a perusal of these five volumes, together with Mr. Evelyn Ashley's "Life and Correspondence of Lord Palmerston." Sir Theodore Martin, we think, does not represent quite fairly and correctly the views entertained by the Advanced Liberal section, or the Manchester School, when he speaks of "the extreme proposals of Mr. Bright and his friends." They are accused of a design "to throw the ponderance of power into the hands of the masses, and to use this power for charging upon land and realised property the whole financial burdens of the State." We will undertake to deny that "Mr. Bright and his friends" have ever advocated or desired any such measures. An imperfect knowledge and mistaken notions of contemporary political discussions are too frequently perceptible in Sir Theodore Martin's work, and greatly detract from its value. The broad fact, however, is that Mr. Gladstone's ineffectual opposition to the attitude which Lord Palmerston's Government thought fit to assume, in face of an imminent rupture of the French alliance, is here plainly set forth. It deserves to be remembered that Mr. Gladstone had the moral courage in those days to stand up and say, "The danger seems to me to lie chiefly in our increased susceptibility to excitement, and in our proneness to constant, and apparently boundless, augmentations of expenditure."

A large space in this volume is devoted to the affairs of Italy, considerably more than seems demanded by the very limited degree of sympathy which the Prince Consort felt with that nation in its struggle for unity and independence. He resembled other Germans in the attitude of his mind upon that occasion. As a true friend of Constitutional government, and of civil and religious liberty, the Prince was disposed heartily to applaud Sardinia for setting a bright example to the other Italian States, and thereby attracting them to herself. He exhorted Prussia to do the same in Germany, as we read in his letters to Baron Stockmar and to the Prince Regent, now the Emperor William I. But he seems to have had no conception of the passionate Italian patriotism, springing from a traditional consciousness of the historic glory of their nation, that inspired all classes of the people to sacrifice every local and private interest, to endure social martyrdom for the faith they cherished, and, by revolutionary efforts again and again renewed, to insist on the liberation and political union of their beloved land. Very few Germans, and we fear not many Englishmen, were able to appreciate the force and depth of this Italian national sentiment in 1859 and 1860. The marvellous exploits of Garibaldi, in the Sicilian and Neapolitan insurrections of the latter year, awoke popular sympathy in behalf of that noble cause; so that when it became manifest that the Emperor of the French would not interfere with its progress, and that the new Kingdom of Italy was to be completed by the advance of its regular army through the Papal States, England was greatly pleased. There was an end, from that moment, of the bickering and snarling against France and "Sardinia" upon account of the cession of Savoy. It was recognised that a grand result had been achieved, whether Napoleon III. wished it or not; and the world had gained, as the Prince said a little before, "a strong Italy, a new and influential member of the family of European States." The Prince was right in this view of the general benefit that would result from Italian unity. If he had lived to see German unity established and consolidated, as we have seen it, by a process not altogether dissimilar, under the leadership of Prussia, he would have still more rejoiced. But his truly conscientious mind, as we believe, would have denied approval to some of the acts of the Prussian policy, as to those of Sardinia, in the successful prosecution of a good object by very questionable means and devices.

The other important public transactions of the two years comprised in this last volume are more briefly treated. These are the massacre of the Christian inhabitants of the Lebanon, and the consequent French occupation of Syria; the close of the Anglo-French war with China; the death of King Frederick William of Prussia, and the accession of his brother, the present Sovereign; the commencement of the German quarrel with Denmark; the visit of the Prince of Wales to Canada and the United States; that of Prince Alfred to the Cape of Good Hope, about the same time; the reorganisation of the Indian Army, and the amalgamation of its European troops with the Queen's regular Army; the creation of the Volunteer Force in Great Britain, with the first Volunteer Reviews in Hyde Park and at Edinburgh, and the first annual Rifle Meeting at Wimbledon; the establishment of Sandhurst Military College; and the preparations for the Great Exhibition of 1862. In all these public affairs of 1860 and 1861 the Prince Consort took a decided interest, and either lent his personal co-operation, working as industriously as any official in service, or gave abundant counsels and suggestions to others in his private correspondence. There is also the narrative of a visit to Coburg, and that of the Royal tour in Ireland. The Prince was constantly employed in useful labours. The very last thing which he wrote, a few days before his death, was a memorandum for corrections in the draught of a Foreign Office despatch to be sent to America, upon the perilous cause of national offence that had suddenly arisen by the seizure of Messrs. Mason and Slidell on board the British mail steam-ship Trent, in the West Indies. A facsimile engraving of this autograph manuscript, with some interlineations of the Queen's handwriting, is furnished in the present volume. We may hope it will be regarded by American readers, as well as by her Majesty's subjects, with the interest that is due not only to the memory of its illustrious writer, but to the dignified courtesy, the spirit of conciliation and forbearing charity, which tempered the tone of that just remonstrance, happily effectual to procure immediate redress of the wrong that had been done. "Blessed are the peace-makers;" and it was good that a wise and benevolent Christian Prince, just before leaving this world for the better world to which his soul aspired, should have penned a few lines contributing to this result. "Her Majesty's Government," he put it thus, "are unwilling to believe that the United States Government intended wantonly to put an insult upon this country, and to add to their many distressing complications by forcing a question of dispute upon us. And we are therefore glad to believe that, upon a full consideration of the circumstances of the undoubted breach of international law committed, they would spontaneously offer such redress as alone could satisfy this country—viz., the restoration of the unfortunate passengers and a suitable apology." The official communication, framed in accordance with this Memorandum, was shown to Mr. Seward, the American Secretary of State, by the British Minister at Washington, on Dec. 19. "He told me," says Lord Lyons, "he was pleased to find that the despatch was courteous and friendly, not dictatorial or menacing." His task of reconciling his Government to a pacific course was thus greatly simplified; and on the 26th he announced that Captain Wilkes had acted without instructions, and that the four persons taken from the Trent should be cheerfully liberated. This was the happy effect of Prince Albert's last bit of work, early in the morning of Dec. 1, when he rose at seven o'clock, ill as he was, to write for the Queen a Memorandum upon the Draught Despatch submitted by Lord John Russell for her Majesty's approval. The Prince was dying, though none of those about him suspected his condition; it is now believed that his health had been sensibly declining for months before. We are told of his saying to the Queen, "I do not cling to life. You do; but I set no store by it. If I knew that those I love were well cared for, I should be quite ready to die to-morrow." Yet he enjoyed life, its work and its innocent pleasures, especially those of domestic affection, as much as any man. But to the good Prince, in the words of his biographer, which we are thankful here to quote—

"Death, in his view, was but the portal to a further life, in which he might hope for a continuance, under happier conditions, of all that was best in himself and in those he loved, unclogged by the weaknesses, and un-saddened by the failures, the misunderstandings, the sinfulness, and the sorrows of earthly existence."

"This spirit," the Queen writes, in a memorandum, in 1862—"this beautiful, cheerful spirit it was which made him always happy, always contented, though he felt so deeply and so acutely when others did wrong, and when people did not do their duty: it was this power he had of taking interest in everything—attending to everything—which prompted those blessed feelings about eternity. He was ready to live, ready to die—"not because I wish to be happier," as he often remarked—but because he was quite ready to go. He did not do what was right for the sake of a reward hereafter, but, as he always said, because it was right."

We cannot add one word to this most touching and truthful testimony of the Queen's upon the subject of her beloved husband's life and character, which entirely deserved such witness to the spiritual source of those virtues we have all recognised and admired. The detailed account of his last illness is very

affecting, though he was not in a state to talk much to his family. He lay or sat on the sofa, day after day, in extreme bodily weakness and uneasiness, while Princess Alice or the Queen read to him from Sir Walter Scott's novels. Now and then, when her Majesty bent over his couch of pain, he greeted her with a few sweet words of homely tenderness, in German, calling her "my dear little wife;" and we feel the sacredness of her telling us such precious signs of their mutual affection. She is, indeed, a true-hearted woman, as fond a wife, mother, and daughter as ever lived! There are some other passages in this volume, particularly those relating to the death of the Duchess of Kent and the Queen's grief upon that occasion, which no one of common feeling will peruse without deep emotion. England has reason to be grateful to Heaven, in this generation, that in the cultivation of family love, which is infinitely more valuable than political prosperity, our Royal Family have set us a good example. This is, perhaps, one of the greatest benefits of an hereditary monarchy to a free nation.

EASTER MONDAY.

The Lord Mayor and the Corporation attended in state at Christ Church, Newgate-street, on Monday, to hear the Spital sermon, which was preached by the Bishop of Chichester. Seven hundred boys belonging to the Bluecoat School were present at the service. In the evening the Lord Mayor gave a full-dress dinner at the Mansion House, which was attended by about 300 guests. The French Ambassador, Admiral Potheau, responded to the toast of his health, and Lord Tentreden replied for the toast of the House of Lords. His Lordship bore testimony to the hard work that was constantly being done by members of the House of Lords on behalf of the country. It had been said that if an hereditary House of Lords had not been in existence no human being would ever have been such a fool as to invent it. In no other country did an hereditary assembly at all like it exist, where its members could be found resisting the natural temptations to an idle and selfish life, and devoting themselves, as the late Lords Derby and Clarendon had done, to the service of their country. These things showed that there were peers who acted on the principle of *noblesse oblige*, and as long as that spirit animated the House of Lords he believed that the toast which had just been drunk would be always welcome. The Lord Mayor, in replying to his health, proposed by Lord Tentreden, nominated Mr. Herbert James Waterlow one of the Sheriffs for the ensuing year.

The fine weather on Monday caused a diminution in the number of visitors to the British Museum and other places of resort in town, and a corresponding increase in the number of excursionists. The London and North-Western Railway booked from Euston Station alone on Thursday, Good Friday, and on Monday more than 11,000 passengers; the Great Western Railway Company sent to its country stations between Friday and Monday afternoon 16,000; the South-Eastern booked on Sunday and Monday up to mid-day nearly 30,000; the Great Eastern conveyed 56,000, principally to suburban stations; and the South-Western, Brighton, and other companies were also well patronized. In illustration of the enormous excursion traffic from other great centres of population, it may be mentioned that the Midland Company carried nearly 12,000 people from Birmingham to various parts of its system. The railway returns for Easter this year are in many cases as large as those for Whitsuntide were in 1879, or larger. To Gravesend, for example, the South-Eastern Railway carried twice as many passengers as on Whit-Monday last year. The number of visitors to the British Museum was 9753, as compared with 14,376 last year. The National Gallery showed a still greater reduction. At South Kensington Museum the number of visitors was 19,437. The Horticultural Gardens, as an open-air resort, showed a great increase. The estimated number of visitors at six o'clock was 10,000. Last Easter only 3700 were admitted. The various picture-galleries were fairly attended. The Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew were visited on Monday by 32,653 people, as against 19,430 last year. The Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, had 30,680 visitors. At the Crystal Palace 51,941 persons passed through the turnstiles; and the Alexandra Palace was visited by about 40,000 persons.

The annual athletic sports of the members of Metropolitan Affiliated Clubs organised by the Working Men's Club and Institute Union were held at the grounds of the London Athletic Club, Stamford-bridge, Fulham, on Monday. The weather was fine, and a successful meeting was patronised by about eleven hundred friends of the competitors, all of whom were members of the Society.

The Volunteer Review at Brighton was held under very favourable circumstances on Monday, and passed off most satisfactorily. It was stated by the Commander-in-Chief and by members of the Staff that the sham fight and march past were in the highest degree creditable to the Volunteer force. Some particulars of the review is given in another column.

The Isle of Wight volunteers instead of taking part in the review at Brighton, had a sham fight on the Downs at Ventnor on Monday. On the supposition that the enemy, having landed at St. Helen's, had occupied Ashurst Down in large force, and were covering the disembarkation of further troops, the various corps were dispatched to intercept them. The manoeuvres were witnessed by a large number of spectators.

AN INTERESTING ISLAND.

Captain East, of H.M.S. *Comus*, has sent to the Admiralty a report on his visit last month to Tristan da Cunha, one of a little group of islands about ten days' sail from St. Helena. He landed with the chaplain, the Rev. Arthur C. Wright, and Mr. James Clibborn, surgeon, a number of other officers following in the cutter, and he says:—

"The islanders, headed by Peter Green, their headman, received us very cordially as we landed, having ordered fresh meat and vegetables to be sent off. We then visited the settlement, going into most of the houses; and, having assembled the people in Peter Green's house, I gave them the presents sent by the President of the United States in acknowledgment of the services rendered by them to the crew of the *Mabel Clark* in 1878, for which they desire me to express their sincere thanks. William Green, son of Peter Green, seems, by the concurrent testimony of all, to have very greatly distinguished himself on this occasion, and to have risked his life in saving the people from the wreck. I would, therefore, beg to suggest that, if eligible, he might be thought a fitting recipient of either the Albert Medal or one of the Royal Humane Society's medals for saving life. The men of this island have, during the last twenty years, saved the crews and rendered assistance to several vessels wrecked and abandoned at Tristan da Cunha and the neighbouring islands. It was my intention to have visited Inaccessible and Nightingale islands, to ascertain if any shipwrecked people were there, but as the Tristan da Cunha people had been there only a short time previous to our arrival I considered it unnecessary. After giving the presents, we walked to see their cultivated ground, about two miles from the settlement to the west. About twenty acres is under cultivation, principally potatoes; the gardens are surrounded by loose stone walls to prevent the incursion of cattle, which roam at large over the grazing-ground that extends from the settlement right along the west side of the island. The island at present seems to be in the most flourishing state, both with regard to health, prosperity, and number of the inhabitants, which now amounts to 109, the largest ever maintained there. There have only been four deaths in thirteen years; the oldest inhabitant is Peter Green, a hale hearty man, seventy-two years, and the youngest, his great-grandchild of one month. No child has ever died in infancy. There are 500 head of cattle, including cows, about 500 sheep, all bred on the island; plenty of pigs, ducks, geese, and fowls. They have begun to export cattle to St. Helena, a vessel having just left with twenty-seven bullocks, weighing from 700 to 800 lb. The meat is very fair; they only charge 4d. a pound for it; sheep weighing fifty to sixty pounds, £1 each; geese, 5s. each.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

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T H E E A S T E R V O L U N T E E R R E V I E W.

SEE PAGE 330.



ARRIVAL OF VOLUNTEERS AT BRIGHTON BY ROAD.



THE FIRST GUN.

THE EASTER VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

The annual field-day of the collective force of Volunteer Rifle Corps belonging to the Metropolis and Home Counties took place on Easter Monday, notwithstanding the pending elections, on the Sussex Downs between Brighton and Lewes. We published, last week, a list of the different Volunteer Corps that were to take part in this review, with the scheme of their proposed incorporation in four Divisions, each Division consisting of two Brigades, under command of the general officers who were then named. A programme of the intended manoeuvres, designed to represent a mimic battle, as is customary, between an attacking and a defending force, was also published beforehand. Our Illustrations given in this Number are devoted chiefly to the incidents of preparation; the marching down of some Volunteer Corps by the high road, at least part of the way, from London to Brighton; their arrival in that town, and the manner in which they were quartered there; but they are shown also quite on the alert, answering the bugle-call of the "réveillé," when morning brings the hour for rising to take the field; and "the first gun" that is fired, at the opening of the action, finds them arrayed in perfect military order.

Among the Volunteer Corps which marched a portion of the distance by road, instead of being carried by railway train, some did more on foot, and some did less. It was, perhaps, a question rather of how much time they could spare for the journey, than of wishing to save themselves a little wholesome fatigue. The 1st London Engineers left on Good Friday morning by train to Redhill, marched to Cuckfield, where they billeted for the night, and renewed their march next day to their head-quarters at the Gloucester Hotel, Brighton. The 1st Middlesex (Victoria) Rifles dispatched detachments on the Thursday and Friday to Dorking, marching thence on Saturday to Brighton, where they had head-quarters at Mellison's Hotel. Eighty officers and men of the 9th (West) Middlesex went by train to Redhill on Friday morning, and thence to Cuckfield on foot, quartering there for the night, and marched on by Haywards Heath next day to their Brighton headquarters at Middle-street Board Schools. The 11th Middlesex (St. George's) Rifles sent forward 114 rank and file on foot from Three Bridges on Saturday. Seven officers and 101 rank and file of the London Scottish walked from Tunbridge on Friday to Uckfield, where they again billeted, marching the remaining distance next day. Contingents from the 19th, the 22nd (Queen's Westminster), and the 37th (Bloomsbury) Middlesex, and the 19th Surrey Rifles also covered the greater part of the distance on foot.

On Good Friday, at half-past twelve, the 38th Middlesex (Artists) Rifles paraded to the number of upwards of 350, the parade-state including sixteen officers, thirty-four sergeants, and thirty-two drummers and fifers. Major Hans Busk was in command (in the absence of Major Edis, who assumed command on reaching Brighton). The column took the train at a little after one from Victoria Station, and proceeded to Hassock's-gate, where it was joined by the commissariat and ambulance waggons, and marched on to Brighton. Their martial appearance, all ranks being in full dress, with helmets, gaiters, shooting boots, white gloves, water-bottles, haversacks, and regimental great-coats, rolled and worn over the shoulder, was in the highest degree satisfactory. This regiment was quartered at the Brighton Townhall. "They had not thought," we are told, "of luxurious provision in the shape of bedding. Some two or three hundred bags had been half filled with straw. These had to be laid so close together as to cover all the surface of the Townhall floor. Some twenty or thirty were crowded into a neighbouring gallery, and the remainder overflowed in the lobbies and the landings. For safety sake, the great hall was left in darkness, and men had to grope their way among the prostrate bodies of their comrades to distant corners of the room, if they had not taken the precaution of laying themselves down in due order. It is to be hoped that they were warm enough; at all events, they did not trouble themselves much about coverings. A few rolled themselves in blankets, but the majority simply threw themselves down on the hard mattress, and fell into a well-earned sleep. The best cared for, if not the most comfortable, were those on guard, who sat round the kitchen table with a glowing fire to cheer them, and the fumes of coffee giving promise of welcome refreshment. Not quite so fortunate were those told off for picket duty. This service was admirably organised, as everything is in connection with the Artists'. Thirteen files, under charge of an officer, patrolled the streets, but probably found few stragglers of their own or any other corps who cared to expose themselves to the bitterness of a keen east wind at that hour of the night. Similarly good picket work was done by parties of the 36th Middlesex." We borrow from the *Daily News* this testimony to the soldierly experiences of the Artists' Corps, which have furnished our own Artists with subjects for their Sketches. On Saturday morning the Artists paraded at nine o'clock, marched off at half past, and took their way to Newmarket Hill for a field-day and sham fight. The morning was most energetically devoted to practice in attack, all the movements being done with the greatest alacrity, and with just so much of freedom as was enough to show that each man was master of his work. After a little rest for luncheon, the companies were marched off to take up position as outposts awaiting the attack of an enemy. This enemy was the London Rifle Brigade, who had announced their intention of marching on Kingston Hill, and endeavouring to drive the Artists in. To meet them Major Edis had posted a line of sentries along the ridges. The pickets and supports were very skilfully placed; they were left free to move on any post right or left without being exposed to the fire of the foe, or to make a stand and fight it out gallantly if need be. The commander of the opposing force began by a very skilful feigned attack on his own left, but finding the natural position too strong there, gradually drew off and delivered his decisive blow on the other flank. Major Edis, however, had active scouts, who kept him well informed of the enemy's movements. Quickly, but without undue haste, he drew his supports from one flank to the other, and when the London Rifle Brigade made their final dash they found themselves met by a firm phalanx, against which every onset proved fruitless. Thus the fight ended in favour of the defenders, and Major Edis remained on the ground he had first taken up, to receive the congratulations of Prince Edward and the Staff, who had witnessed most of the movements—not only the skill of the commander, but also the admirable bearing of the men. On the return home Major Edis selected some of the very roughest ground for putting them through several battalion movements while on the march. All these were gone through with admirable precision, and the men came back to Brighton looking as fresh as if they had only been for a short morning's march.

On Sunday morning, shortly after ten, all the men at headquarters paraded, at the South Inclosure, in front of the Pavilion, for service; and a very soldierly appearance they presented as, headed by their bands, they marched through the gateway before his Serene Highness Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, the General in command. His Serene Highness was accompanied by his staff—Captain Lord A. C. Seymour, Scots Fusilier Guards, Captain Hon. C. G. Byng, 1st Life Guards

(as aide-de-camp), Brevet Colonels G. F. C. Bury, and the Hon. J. C. Dorner (who acted as Assistant-Quartermaster-Generals), and Brevet Major H. M. E. Brunner. The various corps, having been inspected by their commanders, marched towards the Pavilion, where service was held in the Dome. The prayers were read by the Rev. G. E. Cotterill, Brighton College. The singing was led by members of the local choral societies, accompanied by the band of the 1st Sussex Artillery Volunteers, Mr. R. Taylor, organist of Brighton College, presiding at the organ. The sermon, which was appropriate, was preached by the Ven. Archdeacon Hanna, acting Chaplain to the 1st Administrative Brigade of the Surrey Artillery Volunteers.

The weather on Monday was tolerably favourable to the grand military show; it was dry and calm, though not bright, and the mist cleared off at noon, when the operations actually began. The plan of mock combat was easy to be understood. There was a supposed attacking force, which marched against Brighton from Lewes; and a defending Brighton force. Their field of battle was about Newmarket Hill, Falmer Hill, and Bullock Hill, between the hamlets of Kingston and Bevendean. The Brighton force, under the chief command of Major-General Radcliffe, C.B., consisted of 11,878 men and twenty guns, divided into two divisions—the first commanded by Major-General Higginson, C.B., and the second by Major-General Newdigate, C.B. This defending force was posted in a very strong position, its centre being on Newmarket Hill, its left resting on the Newmarket Plantation, and its right reaching over Bullock Hill to Balsdean. The attacking Lewes force, under the command of Major-General J. Turner, C.B., consisted of a total of 8911 men and ten guns, divided into two divisions, forming the third and fourth divisions of the amalgamated forces. This force was posted on Kingston Hill, ready to make the attack, having its right wing on the Newmarket Plantation, and its left on the Castle Hill. The whole area over which the fight extended was, roughly speaking, about four miles by one mile and a half. The two forces were posted behind the crests of opposite ridges, and a broad and deep valley separated them. The battle was opened almost directly the signal-gun was fired by General Turner, who made a feigned attack on the extreme right of the Brighton force. For a short time the boom of a few guns and the smart rattle of rifle fire was heard, and it was supposed at first that a serious attempt was being made to turn the defenders' right flank. The attack, however, was not followed up, and the fire soon died away. The commander of the Lewes army then concentrated his forces on his own right and right centre, from which he delivered a very determined attack on General Radcliffe's left. The Newmarket Plantation was the scene of a smart struggle, in which the London Rifle Brigade, on the right of the Lewes force, succeeded in driving out the rather weak Brighton force that was holding it. In real warfare, however, the London Rifle Brigade would have found it impossible to have held the plantation, seeing that the heavy guns of position belonging to the Brighton force would have easily driven them out of it by shell fire. The artillery of the defenders was so posted as to enfilade the wide valley separating the two forces, four guns being stationed on the right flank and an equal number on the left centre. The remaining six guns were kept in reserve at first, but were eventually made use of to repel the final attack on their left flank. An appearance of reality was given to the scene by the flames and smoke proceeding from large patches of furze which the Brighton artillery force set fire to, early in the engagement, to prevent them from affording shelter to the sharpshooters of the enemy, who might otherwise have severely galled the gunners by a long-range rifle fire. The Lewes force, having gained the Newmarket Plantation, pursued their advantage with an advance by rushes of alternate companies along Falmer Bottom, which was supported by a powerful attack delivered from their right centre followed by an advance of the left centre. These determined assaults on his position necessitated General Radcliffe bringing up his reserves. Accordingly a portion of the 2nd Division was brought into action, with a result to be decided upon by the umpires. They are Colonel the Hon. C. J. Addington, 43rd Brigade Dépôt; Colonel Hales Wilkie, 46th Brigade Dépôt; Colonel Smythe, Royal Artillery; Brevet Major H. M. E. Brunner, 26th Regiment; Lieutenant-Colonel Brockman, 86th Regiment; and Major Rawlins, 69th Regiment.

The manoeuvres lasted about two hours, finishing at two o'clock. The battalions were then massed at the far end of the Brighton Racecourse, for the march past, which began at a quarter to four o'clock. His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, accompanied by Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar and Prince Teck, and attended by several other general officers, witnessed the march past, and frequently expressed his approbation of the appearance and movements of the troops, even noticing particular companies with special commendation. For the first time on record, a balloon figured in the march past. The captive balloon "Crusader," which had done good service during the day, floating in the air some 500 yards above the course, was attached to its cart, drawn by four horses, and was kept in the centre of the line by cords hauled along by the Engineers. It saluted his Royal Highness by descending some distance as it passed. There were three captive balloons employed by the attacking force, to observe the movements of the enemy and to communicate information by an electric telegraph; while the outposts of the defending force were connected with its head-quarters by the telephone. These applications of scientific apparatus to the aid of actual field manoeuvres are a novelty of some importance in the art and practice of war.

The forts protecting the mouth of the Thames were given over for several days recently to the entire use of metropolitan regiments of Volunteer Artillery, who discharged the functions of the garrisons, besides practising with the heavy guns.

The twenty-first annual prize-meeting at Wimbledon of the National Rifle Association will begin on Monday, July 12. The camp will be ready for occupation on Saturday July 10. It is the intention of the council to revert to the custom of opening their gates to the public free of charge after evening gun-fire during the meeting. The council will be glad to receive contributions in kind to be added to the list of "extra" prizes.

For the third successive year the 20th Middlesex Rifles, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel C. E. Gore-Browne, have been to Aldershot for six days' camp duty with the regulars. The advanced party proceeded to camp on Wednesday week, under command of Captain Whewell, and was followed on Thursday and Friday by the remainder, about 300 of all ranks. Last Monday Colonel the Duke of Connaught inspected the battalion on the Queen's-parade, where it underwent a long and crucial ordeal, the bayonet exercise being its noteworthy feature. At the termination of the movements his Royal Highness addressed the regiment, and expressed great satisfaction at the efficiency of the men. During their stay in camp the officers of the 20th were made honorary members of the messes of the Royal Artillery, the detachment of the Brigade of Guards, and the 82nd Regiment.

MUSIC.

The extra Popular Concert given for the benefit of Sir Julius Benedict was necessarily but briefly alluded to last week. The new string quartet produced on that occasion is a comparatively recent production, having been composed in 1872. It consists of four movements—"Allegro Moderato" in C minor, "Scherzo" in E flat (with trio in A flat), "Andante con moto" in G major, and "Allegro con fuoco" in C minor and major. Each movement bears the impress of the hand of the skilled and practised musician, one who has studied in the best schools of musical composition and has largely profited thereby. The whole work manifests the composer's power of sustained treatment and ample development. It was very favourably received, its performance having been excellent at the hands of Herr Straus, Mr. L. Ries, Mr. Zerbini, and Signor Piatti. Sir J. Benedict's cleverly-written sonata in E minor, for pianoforte and violin, was also a feature in the first part of the concert. This was not an absolute novelty, having been composed in 1868, and previously heard in public. It was admirably played by Mdlle. Janotta and Herr Straus, the "Andante Cantabile" having been specially applauded. Other compositions by Sir J. Benedict—sacred and secular, vocal and instrumental—and pieces by other composers, made up a long programme, a feature in which was the excellent performance, by Lady Benedict and Mdlle. Janotta, of Mendelssohn's "Allegro Brillante" on two pianofortes. The vocalists were Mesdames Marie Roze and Patey, Mrs. Osgood, Mr. E. Lloyd, and Mr. Santley. Mr. John Thomas contributed some brilliant harp performances, and Sir J. Benedict and Mr. Zerbini officiated as conductors.—Sir J. Benedict is announced to give his personal recollections of Weber (whose pupil he was) at the Steinway Hall on Monday afternoon, when he will be assisted, in the musical illustrations, by Mdlle. Avigiana, Misses C. Elliott, H. Meason, and B. Francis, and Mr. C. Bonney, as vocalists, and Miss Bessie Richards as pianist.

Madame Marie Roze's concert tour in England, Ireland, and Scotland, terminated last week, having lasted nearly three months. During this period Madame Roze sang successfully at upwards of sixty concerts. Mr. Mapleson has re-engaged Madame Roze for his coming season at Her Majesty's Theatre.

The twenty-fourth series of Saturday afternoon concerts at the Crystal Palace is now approaching its close; but three more performances, and the usual supplementary concert for the benefit of Mr. Manns—the conductor—remaining to be given. Last Saturday's programme included a fine performance of Beethoven's "Pastoral" symphony, the sixth of the nine works of this class by its composer. Miss Agnes Zimmermann gave a very skilful rendering of Rubinstein's third pianoforte concerto (in G), the remaining instrumental piece having been the second set of characteristic "Slavonian Dances," for orchestra, by Dvorak. Vocal pieces were contributed by Madame Lemmens-Sherrington and Mr. F. King. This week's concert is to bring forward a manuscript concerto for the pianoforte, composed by Mr. C. H. H. Parry; the programme also including the seventh symphony of Beethoven (in A).

The second recital of that skilful pianist Madame Frickenhaus took place in the concert-room of the Royal Academy of Music on Wednesday evening, when her programme included a selection from the pianoforte works of Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Mendelssohn, Schumann, Rubinstein, and Bargiel.

The production of "The Pirates of Penzance," the new comic opera by Messrs. Arthur Sullivan and W. S. Gilbert, is to take place this (Saturday) evening, at the Opéra Comique Theatre; the cast including Mesdames M. Hood, Bond, Gwynne, La Rue, and Everard; and Messrs. G. Grossmith, Power, R. Temple, R. Barrington, and G. Temple.

The forty-eighth season of the Sacred Harmonic Society is approaching its close, as also is the appropriation of Exeter Hall to musical purposes. "Elijah" was announced for performance yesterday (Friday) evening, with Misses Anna Williams and Hancock, Madame Patey, Mr. E. Lloyd, Mr. Carter, Mr. Santley, and Mr. C. Henry as solo vocalists.

A national and international concourse of singing societies is to take place at the Hague on Aug. 14 and 15, organised by the St. Cécilia Society of that place. We are authorised to suggest that choral institutions that may have been overlooked in the issue of the official circulars of invitation should address "le Secrétaire de la Société Royale de Chant (Cecilia) La Haye."

THEATRES.

The special form of Easter Entertainment appears now utterly to have gone out of use, and we have no single example of the kind of thing at the theatres this year. Fairy Spectacles and Burlesque have alike vanished. Revivals of any quality and of various degrees of merit, if at all popular, are preferred by the commercial managements which have obtained exclusive possession of the playhouses, and which in general evince but little enterprise, and stake but small capital on their productions.

One would think that it would have been worth the while of the conductor of Drury Lane to venture beyond what has been termed "the Ring," and to take advantage of the rich material that is now acknowledged on all hands to exist in that neglected arena. Scores of fine dramas—many of great poetical value—exist, for which no theatre of the present day makes any provision. It ought to be the function of a large patent theatre to seek out and bring forward such pieces, for which it is reasonably believed that a taste is cherished among the intelligent public. Had this been done honestly for many seasons past, probably instead of a heavy bankruptcy involving very many thousands of pounds, there might have been a profit to double the amount. The losses incurred by the prevailing method are surely so many arguments against it. Our national theatre depends on the reproduction of Leococq's comic opera, according to the version made long ago by Mr. H. J. Byron known as "La Fille de Madame Angot," with Mdlle. Cornélie D'Anka as Mdlle. Lange. Miss Alice Burville as Clairette, and Mr. Wilford Morgan as Ange Pitou. The spacious stage permits a large number of accessories, and the scenic effects are striking and abundant. The opera is preceded by "Lady Audley's Secret." Miss Louise Moodie plays admirably the leading part, a character requiring much subtlety of treatment. The music is under the direction of Mr. Ferdinand Wallenstein.

At the Haymarket, the comedy of "Money" is yet in the ascendant, and at the Lyceum the play of "The Merchant of Venice." Mr. W. G. Wills's new play of "Ninon," with the old one of "Katherine and Petruchio," suffice for Adelphi habitués. "The Streets of London" still does its usual duty for a new drama at the Princess's. The St. James's retains its programme of "Old Crones" and "Still Waters Run Deep." At the Strand "Madame Favart" continues attractive. "Forget-Me-Not" at the Prince of Wales affords abundant opportunity for great acting to Miss Genevieve Ward. "As You Like It" at the Imperial bears, as it were, "a charmed life," and is certainly charmingly acted. The Court maintains a successful run for "The Old Love and the New," and the Gaiety presents for a novelty the farcical

extravaganza of "The Voyage in Suisse," in which the Hanlon Lees appear.

At the Vaudeville, however, a sincere endeavour has been made at the production of originality. A comparatively new author has been called into requisition, and really produced an original play. Mr. Charles Wills, the writer, is already favourably known by a drama called "All for Himself." His present venture is entitled "Cobwebs," and is in three acts. He is evidently a man of ideas, and seeks to carry them through an entire piece in the way of legitimate development; but, unfortunately, he has a very imperfect notion of dramatic action, and scarcely any of dramatic structure. All his characters are seduced by ambition from the straightforward course of life. One would leave his social station for a higher by means of a second marriage, another would get on by the exercise of his invention without having secured a proper market, and another seeks in dissipation and gay society the sensations that give him pleasure. These are the "Cobwebs" against which the moral of the piece is directed. A drunken undertaker who lends money at 60 per cent when he can get it is marvellously impersonated by Mr. James, whose elaborate portraiture of the anomalous individual ought to secure a prolonged success for a piece not without merit, albeit very imperfect as a work of dramatic art. Miss Larkin, as the undertaker's shrew of a wife, has also a good part, which the actress laboured to make interesting. On the whole, the play is more eccentric than pleasing. The dialogue is much too solemn.

At the Globe, also, an attempt is made at some degree of novelty by an adaptation from the French of the celebrated *opéra comique*, in three acts, entitled "Naval Cadets," the music by Richard Genée. The piece has been already adapted more than once, and given rise to consequent legal contention. The action takes place in the seventeenth century, and the scene lies at Lisbon. The scenery is exceedingly picturesque, and there is much opportunity for accessional and other display. The audience are accordingly delighted with the intrigue of which the action is composed, and applaud the actors, who labour hard to make the various situations entertaining.

A revival of Tom Taylor's romantic play of "Clancarty" forms the principal Easter attraction at New Sadler's Wells. We are told that the main incidents of this piece are historical, the marriage of Lord and Lady Clancarty while yet children and the plot for the assassination of King William the Third being accredited facts. The play itself at this late date does not call for especial criticism; we have only to record it as one of the most highly wrought and skilfully constructed of the author's dramas. Its performance at this theatre is but a repetition of previous successful revivals. It has been produced under the direction of Mr. W. H. Vernon, who appeared in the original representation of the play at the Olympic. This gentleman also presents us with a graphic portraiture of the Irish Jacobite, Earl Clancarty. The character of King William the Third, which stood out so prominently on the occasion above alluded to, is effectively rendered by Mr. G. H. Coveney. The Cardell or "Scum" of Mr. Edmund Lyons must also be singled out as a powerful and picturesque presentation. The characters of the Earl of Portland, Lord Woodstock, and Lord Spencer are ably interpreted by Mr. Wheatcroft, Mr. Frank Rodney, and Mr. T. Balfour. Miss Isabel Bateman appears for the first time in the rôle of the heroine, Lady Clancarty. This lady is making rapid progress in her art, and in this difficult assumption she evinces powers which acted with full effect upon the audience, and secured for her a general recognition. Miss Virginia Francis throws considerable animation into the character of Lady Betty Noc, which she interprets in the spirit of true comedy. In the course of the evening the band performs an overture, and entr'acte music specially selected for the play by Mr. F. Stanislaus. On the first night the house was well attended.

The late Mr. Andrew Halliday's adaptation of "Heart's Delight" was reproduced at the Park on Saturday, and well appreciated by a considerable audience. At the Standard, likewise, the Messrs. Douglas commanded a good house with "Green Bushes." At the Duke's a play called "Conrad and Lisette" is performed, and to the Surrey Messrs. Henry Pettit and Paul Merritt have contributed a drama named "Brought to Justice." At the Royalty an adaptation from the French of M. Victorien Sardou, entitled "Themis," appeals with a new version of "Balloonacy," to a select audience. We should have mentioned that the Gaiety dramatic company with "Little Em'ly," and the burlesque of "Little Doctor Faust," have been transferred to the Olympic.

The Crystal Palace gave a military and ballad concert, with a variety of entertainments, assisted by the presence of the Vokes' family. The Alexandra Palace, in like manner, provided an elaborate entertainment. The Royal Westminster Aquarium also affords many amusements.

Mr. and Mrs. German Reed resumed on Easter Monday their performances, and Mr. Corney Grain appears in a new musical sketch, named "Rotten Row." A new entertainment is provided by the Moore and Burgess Minstrels at the St. James's Great Hall. Messrs. Maskelyne and Cooke exhibit their marvels at the Egyptian Hall. Dr. Lynn appears during the holidays at Piccadilly Hall, a new temple of magic. The Polytechnic advertises a number of novel attractions. The Mohawk Minstrels, at the Agricultural Hall, present a new programme. Madame Tussaud has made many additions to her interesting collection. These and other places of similar entertainment, including the music halls, have been numerously visited by the public during the week, and maintain their long-established popularity.

Mr. Henry F. R. Yorke has been appointed Assistant Private Secretary to the First Lord of the Admiralty, vice Mr. James G. Noel retired.

Several important improvements made by Mr. R. J. Gatling in his well-known machine gun were shown to visitors last Saturday, at Sir William Armstrong's offices in Great George-street, Westminster.

M. Bratiano, the Roumanian Premier, has returned home from his mission to Berlin and Vienna, and is said to be perfectly satisfied with the friendly assurances in respect to his country which he has received from the leading statesmen of Germany and Austria.

The total number of live cattle and carcases of fresh meat landed at Liverpool last week from the United States and Canada were as follows:—1338 live cattle; 4911 quarters of beef, 1632 carcases of mutton, and 580 dead pigs, making a larger supply of live stock and a smaller supply of fresh meat landed than in the previous week.

The Duchess of Marlborough, acknowledging another contribution of two thousand pounds from the London Mansion House Irish Distress Fund, says that the normal condition of the peasantry in the west of Ireland is an almost utter absence of clothing. Her Grace would gladly receive supplies of this description to the utmost possible extent. Another correspondent of the Lord Mayor writes that in Donegal bed-clothes or bedding are scarcely known.

THE APPEAL TO THE COUNTRY.

Her Majesty's Order in Council prorogued Parliament from March 24 to April 13; and the Queen's Proclamation, published in the *London Gazette*, directed that the writs for the new Parliament should be returnable on April 29. Long ere that, however, the immediate result of the appeal to the country will be determined.

There were obvious reasons why, notwithstanding the floods of talk that had inundated the country, the oracles of each political party should have given energetic utterance to fresh words of wisdom—or the reverse—on the eve of the first polling day of the General Election. Were there not partisans to strengthen and wavers to win? Sir Stafford Northcote, finding himself on the congenial soil of North Devon, made amends for the rather bovine nature of his speech at the South Molton market ordinary on Saturday; and on Tuesday lifted his voice to as high a pitch as was possible on the part of a usually quiet speaker in the enunciation of those lofty sentiments of patriotism which it is now the Conservative cue to uphold as the peculiar property of the Conservative Party. Albeit the Devonshire vernacular, as spoken by the sons of the soil, can hardly be cited as an inspiring and exhilarating dialect, the Devonshire tongue of the Chancellor of the Exchequer would seem to have elicited some enthusiasm in the public hall of Bideford by his adroit reference to Bideford as one of the ports which sent forth "gallant contributions to that great fleet of resistance which defied the power of Spain, and which upheld the honour of England against great odds before the rest of Europe." The cheers which greeted this historic sally were somewhat qualified by counter-cheers for "Gladstone." But, nothing daunted, Sir Stafford Northcote kept closely to his text, and resolutely maintained, in effect, that it was by firmly acting throughout in the intrepid spirit of the men of old of Bideford that the Government had averted the spread of war in Europe, and had restored England to her rightful place among nations. Leaving this Imperial refrain ringing in the ears of his Bideford audience, the right hon. Baronet took train to Exeter, and arrived there on Tuesday evening in time to attend a large Conservative meeting in the Victoria Hall, and to speak with, if anything, increased earnestness and animation on behalf of the Conservative candidates for Exeter, Mr. Arthur Mills and Mr. Henry S. Northcote, Sir Stafford Northcote's second son. The Chancellor of the Exchequer's most intimate colleagues in the House, Mr. Cross, the same evening delivered effective Ministerial addresses in South-West Lancashire at Waterloo and at Bootle. The Home Secretary made a point at the former place by declaring that the Artisans Dwellings' Act would by the end of 1881 provide comfortable dwellings for 12,000 London and Birmingham artisans; and the right hon. gentleman at the same time had the candour to admit he was in error in attributing the phrase, "Perish, India!" to Mr. Lowe. At Bootle Mr. Cross, in his sharpest gatling-gun manner, fired off the following figures at the last Liberal Ministry: when the late Government left office they left a Navy having tonnage to the amount of 111,044 tons, horse-power of 74,908, and the weight of shot they could throw at one discharge was 37,030 lb.; whereas to-day they had 272,000 tons, with horse-power of 195,000, and they could now discharge a weight of metal of 111,000 lb. The same evening, it may also be mentioned, Colonel Stanley defended the Ministry with ability at Standish; Sir Michael Hicks-Beach spoke with equal judgment at Gloucester, whilst Mr. J. Lowther at York afforded the Government all the support obtainable from his advocacy.

Mr. Gladstone, on his side, has not been silent. By Monday the right hon. gentleman had sufficiently recovered from his recent indisposition to address a deputation after luncheon at Dalmeny, and to speak with cheerful confidence as to the issue of the election for Mid-Lothian next Monday. Then, on Tuesday, Mr. Gladstone, accompanied by Mrs. Gladstone, temporarily left Dalmeny on what may be termed another triumphal journey by rail. Pausing at Peebles to respond to the cheering of some thousands of enthusiastic Scots by an emphatic recommendation of Mr. Tennant's candidature, Mr. Gladstone thence proceeded to Innerleithen, where the system of faggot-voting came in for fresh censure, and therefrom to Thornieley, where the illustrious traveller became the guest of Lord Reay. At Stow the ex-Premier subsequently submitted the financial arrangements of the Government to a searching adverse criticism, one of the salient points most keenly appreciated by the large audience being his reminder that, whereas the last Liberal Administration inherited from the Conservatives a charge for the Abyssinian campaign of £4,500,000, and yet remitted £15,400,000 of taxation during their term of office, the present Tory Government acceded to power with a surplus left them by the Liberals of over five and a half millions, and nevertheless had imposed six millions extra of taxation on the country, besides leaving a debt of eight millions for the future to care for. Mr. Gladstone was not less pungent in his reference to the oft-quoted opinions of foreign Powers concerning the General Election, repudiating the notion that any other nation should induce "England to deviate one inch from that path which was the path of steady unflinching regard to the interests of our own empire, and above all a path of undeviating respect for its duty and its honour." Returning to Edinburgh on Wednesday, the right hon. gentleman was offered the honour of a banquet by the Scottish Liberal Club. His noble opponent, meantime, has not been idle. The Earl of Dalkeith on Tuesday, to wit, addressed meetings at Gilmerton and Lasswade; and at the former place was "heckled" by a Miss Burton regarding the woman's franchise, which gentle "heckler" he urbanely answered; whilst at Lasswade the noble Lord denied the soft impeachment that there were any such bodies as "faggot voters" in the country.

With respect to the other Liberal leaders, the Marquis of Hartington has, perhaps, exhibited the closest reasoning and most remorseless logic in the course of his remarkably able replies to the bellicose arguments of Mr. Cross. The noble Lord's speech at Blackburn on Saturday was particularly noticeable for the sledge-hammer force with which it demolished some of the Home Secretary's aggressive figures of speech. Hardly less effective was his address at Bacup on Monday, or his speech at Haslingden on Tuesday, when he pungently quoted Sir Spencer Robinson's dictum in the *Nineteenth Century* that "in 1874 we obtained a superiority over every other nation in our ironclad fleet, but since that time the superiority has been allowed to escape from us, and other nations have gone ahead." These lucid and unanswerable deliverances of the Marquis of Hartington can scarcely help aiding materially the candidature of the noble Lord and of Mr. Grafton in North-East Lancashire. In Birmingham, we are glad to note, Mr. Bright has apparently renewed his youth in the excitement of the contested election. Never, assuredly, has any Administration been more severely denounced than the present Government has been at the hands of Mr. Bright, especially in the scathing indictment which he delivered on Saturday last in Holden's Concert Hall, and in the file-firing which, so to speak, the right hon. gentleman has since indulged in at the various ward meetings at which the Liberal electors have been instructed how to vote so

as to secure the return of Mr. Bright, Mr. Muntz, and Mr. Chamberlain. At Pontefract, Mr. Childers has not been backward in assailing the Government. Mr. Goschen has been equally ready at Ilkley, but on Tuesday met with a far from favourable audience. And Sir William Harcourt has been good-humouredly bantered by Sir Stafford Northcote for parading Danish cattle through the streets of Oxford as mute protestants against the Ministry.

The ranks of illustrious letter-writers have been notably added to. Lord Derby, for instance, has been induced to write a letter to his land steward, reaffirming that his "wishes are for the success of the Liberal cause." On the other hand, Baroness Burdett-Coutts, in writing to decline supporting Mr. Herbert Gladstone's candidature for Middlesex, accords fresh support to the Ministry by a kind of side wind. Her Ladyship says that "a strong Government" is urgently needed at this crisis, and is of opinion that the Opposition is "too disorganised to offer such a Government to the country." From Earl Grey (whose hostility to certain features of the Ministerial foreign policy hardly warrants the change of front) there has also come an epistle deprecating the return of Mr. Gladstone to power, and plumping in favour of the retention of the present Ministry in order "to secure a firm administration of Ireland!"

If we turn to Ireland, Mr. Parnell's star appears to be anything but in the ascendant. In endeavouring to assume somewhat of the character of a dictator at Enniscorthy on Sunday, Mr. Parnell was pelted with eggs and hustled off the platform, held stoutly by the adherents of the Chevalier O'Clery. Riots have occurred elsewhere. In the far north, at Wick, Mr. John Pender has suffered violence, an effort having been made to push his carriage into the sea. In South Wales, at Cardiff, on Tuesday evening, banners were torn in the streets, and personal encounters were frequent. And, reverting to Ireland, there was a serious Orange riot the same night at Coalisland, in county Tyrone. So that all the exuberance of electioneering has not yet vanished even in the present year of grace.

THE NEW HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday last was the first day of the General Election. Sixteen members were then returned unopposed; and Nominations took place for a considerable number of boroughs, where contests have since ensued or are ensuing, with results which will be published in our later editions. The following are the names of the members earliest elected:

		L. C.
Bury (Lancashire) ...	Mr. R. N. Philips	1
Cambridgeshire ...	Hon. H. B. W. Brand	1
	Mr. H. B. Rodway	1
	Mr. Edward Hicks	1
Carnarvon ...	Mr. W. Bulkeley Hughes	1
Cirencester ...	Mr. T. W. C. Master	1
Derbyshire, South ...	Sir H. Wilmot	1
	Mr. T. W. Evans	1
Drogheda ...	Mr. Benjamin Whitworth	1
Dublin County ...	Right Hon. Colonel Taylor	1
Dublin University ...	Right Hon. E. Gibson	1
Frome ...	Mr. H. B. Samuelson	1
Gloucestershire, East ...	Sir Michael Hicks-Beach	1
Hants, North ...	Right Hon. G. Selater-Booth	1
Hertfordshire ...	Right Hon. Henry Cowper	1
	Mr. Abel Smith	1
Huntingdon ...	Viscount Hinchingbrooke	1
Illswell ...	Sir Edward W. Watkin	1
Lisburn ...	Sir Richard Wallace	1
Liverpool ...	Right Hon. Viscount Sandon	1
	Mr. Edward Whitley	1
	Lord Ramsay	1
Montrose ...	Right Hon. W. E. Baxter	1
Morpeth ...	Mr. Thomas Burt	1
Northamptonshire, S ...	Sir Rainald Knightley, Bart.	1
	Major F. W. Cartwright	1
Oxfordshire ...	Colonel North	1
	Mr. E. W. Harcourt	1
Oxford University ...	Mr. W. C. Cartwright	1
	Right Hon. J. R. Mowbray	1
Paisley ...	Mr. J. G. Talbot	1
Sandwich ...	Right Hon. E. II. Knatchbull-Hugessen	1
Shropshire, North ...	Viscount Newport	1
	Mr. Stanier Leighton	1
Suffolk, West ...	Mr. T. Thornhill	1
	Mr. W. Biddell	1
Swansea ...	L. S. Dillwyn	1
Tavistock ...	Lord Arthur Russell	1
Walsall ...	Sir Charles Forster	1
Wycombe ...	Hon. W. H. Carington	1

SCHOOL LIBRARIES IN FRANCE.
A striking illustration of the spread of education among the humbler classes of the French nation is presented by the remarkable increase which has taken place and which is still going on in the libraries attached to elementary schools. In 1866 there were only 4835 of these libraries; in 1877 their number had increased to 17,764. Within the same interval the number of volumes purchased for these libraries had advanced from 180,853 to 1,716,900. In the expenses incurred on account of this subsidiary but most important means of education, the State, the General Councils, and the Municipalities all more or less participate. But the sums they grant are very different in different parts of France. Thus while we find that the subsidy allowed by the Côte d'Or was 18,400f., by the Somme 11,700f., and by the Nord Department 9000f., the sum granted by the Département des Gers was only 20f., Morbihan 50f., and Haute Vienne 40f. The largest number of libraries are in the following departments:—Haute Marne, 548; Marne, 530; Ardennes, 520; and Aisne, 514. The Department of the Seine has 461 school libraries, 319 of which are in Paris. The smallest number is in the Pyrénées Orientales, which has only 48. Though there are many communes in various parts of the country still without any school library, and others in which the number of books is either exceedingly limited and the choice confined almost entirely to religious books or stories for the tenderest infancy, the institution of school libraries in France is, on the whole, in a most flourishing condition. In many places, indeed, they are used by the parents quite as much as by the children, and fulfil to a large extent the purpose of popular libraries. The sum granted by the State for purchases of books for the school libraries is only 120,000f., or less than £5000 annually.

The First Lord of the Admiralty has consented to become a Vice-President of the Suffolk Agricultural Society. Mr. Smith has also forwarded to the Society a cheque for £50, which will constitute him a Vice-President for life.

The German Chancellor has caused the announcement to be made that his Royal Highness Duke Theodore of Bavaria, who recently took the degree of Doctor of Medicine at a German University, has received the certificate enabling him to practise as a surgeon without being required to undergo the additional examination to which intending practitioners are ordinarily liable under the German law.



SOUNDING THE REVEILLÉ.—SEE PAGE 330.



THE BRIGHTON REVIEW: THE ARTISTS' CORPS MARCHING TO BRIGHTON.—SEE PAGE 330.

FINE ARTS.

SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS.

The exhibition in the Suffolk-street galleries presents a further improvement this year—due obviously to the infusion of new blood into the society and to the increasing number of “outsiders.” The improvement, however, is observable in a more deft use of the mere materials so as to “tell” with effect in the exhibition, not in those higher qualities that testify to a sound artistic education, or which demand thought and careful elaboration. Correct draughtsmanship of the human figure, for instance—the surest test of art-training—is hardly to be found in these rooms. And ignorance of what best deserves to be commended to the public is only too apparent in the arrangement of the collection. Nowhere, perhaps, could a greater abuse of prescriptive rights or a greater and less excusable disregard of relative merit be found.

The works composing the collection are indeed too insufficiently illustrative of art-principles to require lengthened remark or repay classification. We shall therefore simply mention in the order of the catalogue those which seem best deserving notice, adding any passing observation that may seem needed. We commence, then, with “Watching the Fisher Fleet” (3), by Stuart Lloyd, a promising young artist, better represented in the large landscape, “A Deserted Mansion” (235), which is remarkable for breadth and brilliancy of colouring. “The First Load” (9), by A. F. Grace, the lower half as complete in execution as the upper is rough and painty. “Good Folks are Scarce” (20), by J. Hayllar—the first of several rural groups and figures of much character in the artist’s usual manner. “The Keeper’s Assistants” (35), by J. S. Noble; in technical qualities this composition of a white pony, a couple of setters, and a group of game before a rustic gate over which is seen a reach of landscape, is certainly one of the best in the gathering. The painting is sound, simple, direct, and seems to partake of an old English character suitable to the subject. But we cannot say so much for “The Gillie’s Fireside” (394), by the same artist—it is hot in colour and forced in effect. H. M. Page’s “Highland Sport” (34), a group of salmon and game, partakes of the juicy richness of the colouring of Mr. Noble’s first-named picture, over which it is hung. “A Line to Prue—Steele’s Letters” (39), one of four small works of considerable ability, though a little heavy in colour, by Beatrice Meyer. No. 41, by T. Roberts, may be noticed for some ingenuity in dealing with the subject—i.e., a girl reading a ghost-story by fire-light to her little brother, who, at a sound emitted from the piano by a climbing black cat, turns a scared sidelong look into the dark room to meet the green eyes of the animal, and to mark the distorted colossal shadow of his own head projected along the wall. But the hideousness of the terror in the little fellow’s face vulgarises the humour of the incident. “Clouded June” (53), by J. W. B. Knight, shows some artistic originality of observation. A bust portrait by John Burr of his fellow-member Wyke Bayliss (57) shows a solidity, strength, and vigour of handling and effect, which, if accompanied by a little more care in modeling would give the work very high rank. “Dutch Pinks on Shore” (60), a skilful little marine piece, by Edwin Hayes. “The Woodman” (71), by J. White: this and other contributions by the same artist, and somewhat similar studies from nature by J. R. Reid, together with larger landscape-work more ambitious in aim, but less true in colour, by E. Ellis, may be classed together as presenting unmistakable evidences of capacity. But, although far more acceptable than much of the conventionality in these rooms, we must contend that these productions are not sufficiently complete and conscientiously thought out to entitle them to public exhibition. They are not pictures, but studies; useful, no doubt, they should be to the artists themselves as strongly emphasised records of impressions of the “values” in given effects or of given colours and tones; but they owe their specious attractiveness in an exhibition to much that is exaggerated or shallow. “A Peat Moss in the Lewis” (79), by P. Macnab, reveals a melancholy misapprehension of the effect of twilight. “Stitching-Time” (85), by Carlton A. Smith—an advance upon previous works. “Sport in 1680” (89), by W. Hughes—a very well painted group of pheasants, partridges, a hare, and other game, with an ornamental powder-flask of the period named in the title. “Le Bal des Pauvres” (98), by A. Ludovici—an organ-grinder with children dancing in a London slum. “Landscape and Cattle: Evening” (116), by G. Cole—a manifest falling-off, we regret to say. “The Assizes” (122), by J. Morgan—an ante-room to a court of justice, with many figures; the subject indicated in the catalogue; the faces have character, but the painting is rather thin and mechanical. No. 139, by W. M. Hay—dextrous technically, and an advance in refinement. “Cracking the Last Nut” (140), by A. Ludovici, jun.—gallants clustering round a dinner-table from which the ladies have just retired (save one roguish listener) to tell some racy story—evinces progress. A rustic girl gathering “Blackberries” (163), by F. Morgan. No. 166, by T. K. Felham—slight but picturesque in effect and colour. “Dutch Herring-Boats getting under way off the Fair Isle” (169), by J. Fraser—almost monochromatic, but very spirited, particularly in the painting of the sea. “A Misty Day: Burnham Beeches” (172)—one of several landscapes by H. Caffieri, all equally distinguished by delicacy of colouring and treatment. No. 178, by W. H. Bartlett—little Dombey by the seashore asking his sister, “What is the sea always saying?” “The Retreat” (183), by F. Heydendhal—cavalry picking their way after sundown in a snow-covered landscape, by a winding rivulet fast locked in ice, the turrets of a château in the mid-distance relieved against the ruddy glow that lingers on the horizon beneath a canopy of snow-cloud. This is one of the ablest works in the collection; yet the discriminating and liberal hangers at this gallery have placed it above “the line!” “The Complete Angler,” by W. Dendy Sadler, a new member—a very droll and characteristic figure of an old fellow fishing patiently under unfavourable circumstances: carefully studied and crisp in execution. “The Isle of Prospero: Effect of Sunset and Moonrise” (191)—the most complete example of Mr. Woolmer’s peculiar powers we remember to have seen, the subject—happily chosen, admitting us, as it does, into a world of enchantment, and warranting, or at least condoning, a wide departure from the literal facts of nature—is conceived with rare poetic sympathy, and treated with artistic resources of fanciful, changeable effect, and jewelled colouring which are equally rare.

Passing to the smaller rooms, we may pause first before “The Land’s End, Cornwall” (219), a work of careful, modest merit, by F. W. Meyer; “An Orange-Seller” (231), by P. Pavy—clever, somewhat in the manner of B. Constant, with gay colouring run riot. Nos. 236 and 246—two pictures by A. Burr from the same model: an old Scotchman, in the one he is poring over “The Word of God,” in the other he is setting a mouse-trap, the head in both modelled with great truth—realised, indeed, almost to illusion. “Here They Come” (269), by H. King—a girl looking out of a door: brilliantly lighted. “Reciting an Ode on Mamma’s Birthday” (291), by A. Martinetti—a composition of richly costumed

figures, in an ornate interior, copied, we believe, from an apartment in the Doria Palace, Rome: elaborately and brilliantly painted, though a little cold in tone. Here is another picture by a foreign artist hung above the line, where its multitude of minute details cannot fairly be seen. “Sunset: Littlehampton” (302), perhaps the best of several pleasing coast scenes, by G. S. Walters. “After the Ball” (319), a very promising female study by Eleanor Ball, who has apparently studied in the Belgian school. “A Cornish Orchard” (406), by J. Aumontier, admirably brilliant, yet refined, owing to a recognition of the value of atmospheric greys, which we fail to find in many landscapes here. “Summer Twilight” (470), by Lionel P. Smythe—a street scene, with a row of gas-lit shops and unprotected females in the foreground shade, containing much skilful execution expended on an ill-chosen subject. No. 504, by H. Helmick—a farcical representation of a half idiotic-looking “China Hunter” examining pieces of blue-and-white crockery brought for his examination by an old housewife from her cottage dresser and closet. “A Stitch in Time” (512), by E. Hume—a bright little picture of two children by the seaside. “Pastures Sweet” (515), by Tom Lloyd—very good in colour and effect. “The Head of Loch Lomond” (519), the most important landscape by J. Peel, presenting the artist’s usual respectable ability, saving, however, an increasing tendency to cold olive tones in the verdure. “Harvest-Time in Normandy” (531)—one of several landscapes of merit by W. S. Jay. We would also commend to the visitor the contributions of Carl Bauré, A. W. Bayes, H. H. Cauty, H. H. Coulter, J. Finnie, J. Gow, W. Gale, G. and E. Holmes, W. Holroyde, Jessica Hayllar, J. R. Houston, F. S. Muschamp, G. Pope, Sidney Starr, J. Surtees, W. L. and C. W. Wyllie, and E. A. Waterlow.

Among the water-colour drawings are a brilliant flower-piece by W. Muckley and several others of some mark, but hardly of sufficient importance to claim detailed observation.

The Queen has bought three of the pictures from the series illustrating Baveno and its neighbourhood, by M. and Madame de l’Aubinière, on view at the Belgian Gallery.

The Crown Princess of Germany has become an honorary member of the Institute of Painters in Water Colours, and her Imperial Highness has, we understand, expressed her willingness to exhibit at the gallery of the institute.

The Fine-Arts Exhibition in the upper galleries of the Royal Albert Hall is now open to the public. Most of

the best pictures, including some works lent by the Queen, have been seen before. The collection of wood carvings, ancient and modern, will be found particularly interesting.

The following gentlemen have been elected Associate Exhibitors of the Society of Painters in Water Colours:—Messrs. T. J. Watson, W. E. Walker, E. A. Waterlow, and Walter Field.

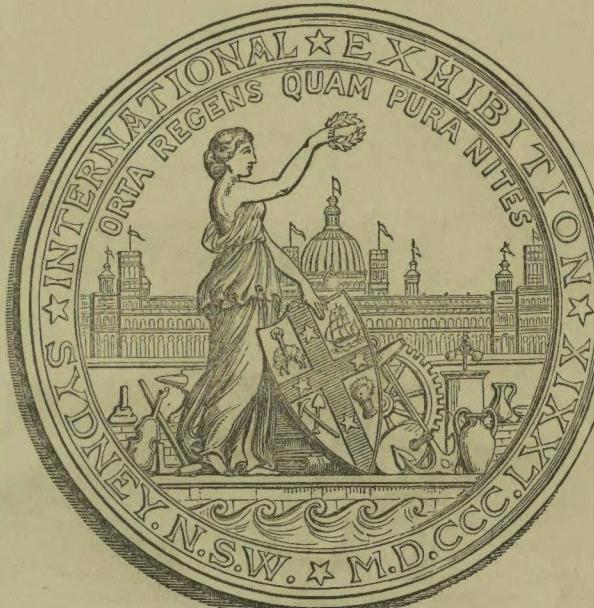
The report of the Fine-Arts Committee of the Corporation of Liverpool on the last Autumn Exhibition states that the sales amounted to over £9000.

A life-size portrait of Major Graham, by Mr. Frank Holl, has been presented to that gentleman upon his retirement, after thirty years’ tenure of the office of Registrar-General.

Mr. Herbert has completed the second great picture for the decoration of the Peers’ Robing-Room, Westminster Palace—the first being “Moses Bringing Down the Tables of the Law from Mount Sinai.” The subject of the present work, upon which the artist has been many years engaged, is “The Judgment of Daniel.” We hope to describe the picture shortly.

The Art-Union of London have resolved to erect in their new office, 112, Strand, a tablet commemorative of their architect, the late Mr. E. M. Barry, whose last work it was.

The sale of the great collection of Prince Demidoff at San Donato, Florence, has been somewhat affected by adverse reports at Paris, but trustworthy persons on the spot state there is no foundation for these rumours, and that nothing was reserved. Americans have been among the principal purchasers. The pictures sold on the first three days realised about £100,000. Among the principal lots were the following:—Six Greuzes, 65,400f., including “The Young Peasant,” a portrait of a boy, 27,000f.; Ruydsael, “Banks of the Meuse,” 25,100f.; a flower-piece by Van Huysum, 23,000f.; a portrait of Anne Cavendish by Vandyck, 150,000f.; landscape by Hobbema, with figures by Van de Velde, 210,000f.; portrait of Spinola by Reubens, 81,000f.; a landscape by Rubens, 29,000f.; Teniers, “The Prodigal Son,” 81,000f.; and “The Five Senses,” 75,000f.; a small Van de Velde, 38,000f.; a larger one, 48,000f.; Van der Capelle, “A Calm,” 30,000f.; a portrait of his son, by Franz Hals, 65,000f.; Nicholas Maas, “Happy Infant,” three heads, 85,000f.; four Ostades, two very small, 112,000f.; Paul Potter’s “Pigs,” 31,600f., and his “Horses,” 28,000f. Four Rembrandts, over 500,000f. The great collections of objets d’art fetched prices that are



MEDAL OF THE SYDNEY EXHIBITION.

considered more equably good. A splendid Vienna table service of 107 pieces was sold in detail for 68,435f. Monday was occupied with the sale of Napoleonic relics.

The death is announced of Edward Girardet, a Swiss painter of repute, whose pictures are much prized in his own country. In the latter part of his career he devoted himself to engraving, the branch of art practised by his father and his brother Paul; and his plates from the “Divicon” of Gleyre, the “Banquet des Girondins,” and the four scenes of Delaroche’s “Passion” are considered masterpieces in France as well as in Switzerland.

Mr. John Bell Potter, the largest collector of paintings and works of art in Glasgow, has just died.

An Exhibition of Ancient and Modern Art will be opened at Turin on the 25th inst.

A new work, figuring 2115 monograms and crowns of all nations, is being published by Gerlach and Co., of Vienna. The monograms have all been specially designed and engraved. A copy of the complete work is on view at F. Schenk’s, 1, Upper Chadwell-street, Clerkenwell.

inhabitants, has 60,000 schools, attended by six million scholars, giving an average of one hundred scholars to each institution. The expenditure on account of schools in that country averages 2s. 11½d. per head of the population. England, with thirty-four million inhabitants, has 58,000 schools, attended by three million scholars, or an average of fifty-two to each school, and at an expense of 1s. 10½d. per head of the population. Austria-Hungary, with thirty-seven millions of people, has 30,000 schools, attended by three million pupils, or one hundred pupils each, at an expense of 1s. 8d. per head of the population. France, with thirty-seven millions of people, has 71,000 schools and 4,700,000 pupils, or sixty-six per school, the expenditure averaging nearly 1s. 6d. per head of the population. Spain, with seventeen millions of people, has 20,000 schools and 1,600,000 scholars, or fifty-six per school, the expenditure averaging 1s. 4½d. per head of the population. Italy has twenty-eight millions of people, 47,000 schools, and 1,900,000 scholars, or forty per school, the expenditure being 10d. per head of the population; while Russia, with seventy-four millions of people, has 32,000 schools and 1,100,000 scholars, or thirty-six per school, the average expenditure being rather more than 3½d. per head of the population.

Messrs. Cassell, Petter, Galpin, and Co. have published a popular edition of Mr. Barnett Smith’s “Life of Mr. Gladstone,” in one volume, at five shillings; and Messrs. C. Kegan Paul and Co. announce the issue of a second edition of Mr. Clayden’s “England under Lord Beaconsfield.” The history has been further continued and an index added.

The following has been the result of an appeal made by Captain Gildea, of 20, Stafford-terrace, Kensington, for newspapers and books, &c., for “Our Soldiers in Afghanistan”—7741 illustrated and comic papers; 8448 newspapers, books, and periodicals; 8864 Testaments and tracts; which have been sent during the winter in forty-eight bales to Kabul, Candahar, Kohat, and Jellalabad respectively. The balance of £5 6s. 10d. in hand after paying expenses has been handed over to the fund now being raised for the much-needed Infirmary for the Soldiers’ Daughters’ Home, at Hampstead.

The Mayor of Newport (Mr. R. Russell Evans) on Saturday, at the request of the Board of Trade, presented Captain Hodge, of the steam-ship Lady Tredegar, with a silver medal, in recognition of the gallantry and presence of mind shown by him in saving life. On Feb. 9 last the steam-ship Constance, on her voyage from Cardiff to Malta, sank in a terrific gale. The master, Captain Waller, and six men were observed by Captain Hodge floating on some broken spars, and he, at great risk in a heavy cross sea, changed the course of the Lady Tredegar, and succeeded in saving the whole seven.

EDUCATION IN EUROPE.

The following numbers, which have been published in the educational organs of Germany, represent approximately the present state of the chief European nations in regard to school education. Germany, with upwards of forty-two million

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REPORT, 1879.

The Fifty-fifth Annual Report, and the latest balance-sheets rendered to the Board of Trade, can be obtained at either of the Society's Offices, or of any of its Agents.

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